

NO. 756

ARAB TIMES



WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 1988

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18 PAGES 150 FILS

Interior and defence
portfolios swapped

Three ministers resign,
three new faces

THE
WORLD
THIS
MORNING

Release delayed

BEIRUT, (AP): The kidnappers of three American professors and an Indian educator said yesterday that the Israeli roundup of Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip has delayed the captives' release.

Artillery fire

NEW DELHI, (Reuter): India and Pakistan exchanged heavy artillery fire over the strategic Siachen glacier this week but Indian troops suffered no casualties. India's northern Army commander told a news agency yesterday.

Plane crash

ANKARA, (Reuter): A Turkish military plane crashed during a training flight near the western town of Balikesir yesterday, killing the two pilots on board, the independent Hurriyet news agency said.

Woman killed

NAIROBI, Kenya, (AP): A crocodile in northeastern Kenya claimed its fifth victim yesterday when it snatched a pregnant woman who was bathing in Tana river.

Moore dies at 87

PASO ROBLES, California, (Reuter): Colleen Moore, one of the biggest film stars of the 1920s whose bobbed hair and short skirts made her a leading light of the flapper era, has died at the age of 87, her son, Homer Hargrave, said.

Churbanov

MOSCOW, (Reuter): The son-in-law of the late Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev, Yuri Churbanov, will go on trial for corruption and taking bribes, the Soviet news agency Tass said.

Jalalabad bombs

ISLAMABAD, (Reuter): Afghan authorities said yesterday that two bombs at a funeral in Jalalabad last Friday killed 14 people and were brought to buses from Pakistan.

Soldiers killed

COLOMBO, (Reuter): Tamil rebels killed two Indian soldiers and injured another yesterday in eastern Sri Lanka, residents said.

Training voyage

NICOSIA, (Reuter): Iranian naval cadets left on two warships for a two-month, 8,000-mile training voyage in the Indian ocean, Tehran Radio reported.

Commandos killed

BEIRUT, (UPI): Israeli troops ambushed and killed three commandos who were trying to infiltrate Israel's self-proclaimed "security zone" in southern Lebanon late Monday, commando sources said yesterday.

Mexican
mine fire
kills 33

LAS ESPERANZAS, Mexico, Jan 26, (AP): Rescue workers recovered more bodies today from the charred depths of a coal mine ripped by explosion and fire. The head of the rescue squad said 33 men had died and at least 10 more were believed still trapped below.

"We don't believe there's a possibility that anyone remains alive," Felipe Perez Ortiz, the miner who headed the rescue team working in the northern Mexico mine since late last night, told reporters.

He said the work was going on about 100 yards (metres) underground.

Bombs

In the Gaza Strip, demonstrators threw petrol bombs and stones at troops during a brief break in a curfew that has been in force for two weeks, Army radio reported.

Three US citizens filed complaints with the US consulate in East Jerusalem, charging that they were beaten by Israeli soldiers, a consulate spokesman said yesterday.

Perez Ortiz cautioned that he was not an authorized spokesman.

Federal authorities said earlier that at least 20 miners died and 18 were still missing.

Friends and relatives of the buried miners huddled around campfires outside the mine's entrances near the shaft where workers were bringing victims to the surface.

As bodies were slowly recovered, guards at the gates called for family members to come inside and identify them.

Saddam approves of GCC talks with Iran

ing the necessity of "dialogue" being the basis for Arab interaction. "We are one Arab nation and it is supposed that no one should try to harm the other," he was quoted as saying.

The Saudi Press Agency reported that Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz was in Riyadh to deliver a message from Saddam Hussein to King Fahd of Saudi Arabia.

Contacts

Its contents were not disclosed, but Aziz has just sent the UN Secretary-General Javier de la Cueva a note underscoring his country's acceptance of resolution 598.

Fahd has been at the centre of contacts launched by Syria along with the UAE and Oman.

Some analysts said the Iraqi President's remarks published in Jordan possibly indicated that the UAE and Oman were insisting on a serious mediation bid.

Jordan's King Hussein also visited Baghdad for talks on the war with Saddam.

In another interview Saddam said that the real ambition of Iranian leader Ayatollah Khomeini was to establish a Persian empire.

He added that Khomeini thought that the Shiites of Iran were the leaders of all Shiites.

Adamant

In an interview with three Saudi newspapers Saddam said that Khomeini believed he was the representative of all Shiites, at least in the Middle East.

He said that Khomeini was adamant about continuing the war because he had nothing left before him for establishing his Persian empire except trying to defeat Iraq, which he had chosen as the key to his dreams.

Saddam added that Khomeini's plan was to crush the Arab world in stages and then gradually form his empire.

(Continued on Page 4)

Cabinet reshuffled



HH the Crown Prince
and Prime Minister



Sheikh Salem



Sheikh Nawaf



Sheikh Jaber Al Hamed



Sheikh Nasser



HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister

Diplomats said the reshuffle was unlikely to result in major changes in government policy.

It was triggered by the resignations of Communications Minister Khalid Al Jumieen, Municipal Affairs Minister Abdul Rahman Khalid Al Ghunaim and Planning Minister Mohammad Soleimao Sayed Ali, mainly for personal reasons.

Information Minister Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Al Ahmed Al Sabah switches with Social Affairs and Labour.

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INTERNATIONAL

US President talks of global democratic revolution

America strong: Reagan

WASHINGTON, Jan 26, (AP): President Reagan, in a State of the Union address brimming with optimism, proclaimed an American economic and military reawakening and vowed to push to the end for US support of rebel movements in Nicaragua, Afghanistan and elsewhere.

Seeking a fresh start with Congress, Reagan invited both Democratic and Republican leaders to the White House today to discuss legislative agenda.

The President called during the nationally broadcast speech yesterday for new assistance to Contra rebels battling the leftist Sandinista government in Nicaragua and for US support of democracies elsewhere.

Dismissed

In delivering his final State of the Union address before stepping down next year after serving two full terms, Reagan sounded the same upbeat tone that has marked previous addresses. He talked of an "economic and social revolution of hope" in the United States and "global democratic revolution" around the world.

He said the US is "strong, prosperous, at peace" and asked Congress to help make his final



President Reagan, flanked by Vice President George Bush, as he gives his State of the Union address. (Reuter wirephoto)

year in office "the best of eight".

But Democrats immediately dismissed much of the speech as irrelevant.

House Speaker Jim Wright said Reagan has failed to do enough to protect Americans' economic interests.

North Korea accused of terrorism

Japan slaps sanctions

TOKYO, Jan 26, (Reuter): Japan imposed sanctions against North Korea today, accusing Pyongyang of destroying a South Korean airliner and pledging to help prevent any attempt by the North to disrupt the Seoul Olympics.

Chief cabinet secretary Keizo Obuchi said in a statement the sanctions would include stricter control of contacts between Japan and North Korea, a ban on all flights between the two countries and restrictions on shipping and visiting North Korean sailors.

Obuchi said Japan was certain communist North Korea was behind the bombing of a Korean Air Lines jet last November that killed all 115 people on board.

"Japan is convinced that the incident was caused by organised terrorism from North Korea."

"We've come to the end of an era," said Senate majority leader Robert C. Byrd. "The 'feel-good' slogans have gone flat with time."

Plans

Reagan promised to go ahead with plans to submit to Congress tomorrow a request for new assistance for the Nicaraguan Contra rebels, saying "the struggle has extra meaning because that nation is so near our own borders."

He asked for quick Senate confirmation of Supreme Court nominee Anthony M. Kennedy, sought prompt ratification of the US-Soviet medium-range missile treaty and offered a mocking critique of the congressional budget-making process that even brought laughs from some of the lawmakers.

"Congress shouldn't send another one of these," Reagan said, holding aloft a thick stack of papers he said represented budget bills. "And if you do, I will not sign it."

But Democratic leaders declared Reagan will not be able to set the national agenda in his final year in office.

House Speaker Jim Wright said Reagan has failed to do enough to protect Americans' economic interests.



Whitney Houston holds up one of her two trophies she won at the 15th Annual Music Awards. (Reuter wirephoto)

Travis sweeps musical awards

visited Japanese ports in 1986.

Asked what evidence Japan had based its decision upon, Obuchi said: "(The government) has become fully convinced that it was an organised act of terrorism by North Korea ... by conducting an overall and prudent examination from every angle of the affair."

A man and a woman carrying fake Japanese passports left the plane hours before its destruction, and the woman later confessed to having planted a bomb on board on the orders of Kim Jong-Il, son of North Korean leader Kim Il-Sung.

Last week, the United States also said it had decided North Korea was responsible for the destruction of the airliner and placed the Pyongyang government on its blacklist of terrorist nations.

LONDON, Jan 26, (AP): The first world summit on AIDS opened today with an appeal by Britain's Princess Anne for international cooperation on waging war against the fatal disease.

The British government also announced a £4.5 million-pound (\$8.1-million) grant for combating AIDS in developing nations.

Health ministers from 122 countries and senior advisers from 28 others gathered for the three-day meeting at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre opposite Westminster Abbey. It is sponsored by the World Health Organisation, an arm of the United Nations.

Dropping her prepared text in favour of stronger language, the Queen's daughter said: "The global response to AIDS has been characterised by series of delays."

"World summits are not quick or easy to organise and don't always produce results. Please make this one work. Make this summit be the forerunner of

He won in all categories for which he was nominated.

"I don't know why things have gone so well. We just came along at the right time," said Travis, a leader in the return to traditional country music. "Anything like this is a boost to someone's career. When I first came to Nashville, I got turned down by everybody in town — several times."

After winning his fourth award for vocalist, Travis said, "I thought we might get one. I sure didn't expect four. That last one was really a shock."

Miss Baker won favourite female soul-rhythm and blues singer and favourite album in the same category for her nearly two-year-old Raputure LP.

"I really expected Whitney (Houston) to win," Miss Baker told reporters after winning favourite singer. "We talked about this backstage and we agreed she would win. We have a mutual admiration society."

Miss Houston did win favourite pop-rock female vocalist and her I Wanna Dance with Somebody (Who Loves Me) won favourite single in the same category.

"This is outrageous," she shouted joyfully when she won her second trophy. Last year, Miss Houston won seven American music awards.

Reba McEntire won the favourite female vocalist in the country category.

Paul Simon won favourite pop male vocalist, and his Graceland, won favourite pop-rock album. Simon won a grammy for the album in 1987.

Michael Jackson won favourite soul rhythm and blues single for Bad. Jackson had won 11 previous American music award trophies. Neither Simon nor Jackson were on hand to accept their awards last night.

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ARAB TIMES, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 1988

NEWS IN BRIEF

Zanzibar cabinet

DAR ES SALAAM, Jan 26, (Reuter): Zanzibar's President Idris Abdul Waki has sacked his chief minister and long time rival Seif Sharif Hamad, replacing him with a career civil servant, Omar Ali Juma.

Waki dissolved his cabinet last Friday after accusing several unnamed ministers of plotting to overthrow him.

Radio Zanzibar announced Juma's appointment as chief minister last night. It gave no details of other cabinet changes on the autonomous island, which is federated with mainland Tanzania.

Hacked to death

NEW DELHI, Jan 26, (AP): Several people travelling on a passenger bus were hacked to death in southern Andhra Pradesh state yesterday by about 30 assailants in revenge for the killing of a fellow villager, the United News of India reported.

The news agency said the attackers stopped the bus between Umphanur and Halvi villages after blocking the road with rocks. It said they first threw chilly powder on the victims and later killed them.

Other passengers were ordered to get down from the bus, UNI reported. The attack was in revenge for the killing of a man during village elections last year by a rival group, UNI quoted police as saying.

Parade of sail

SYDNEY, Jan 26, (Reuter): Tall ships from around the globe will be in a grand "parade of sail" today in Sydney harbour, focal point of Australia's 200th anniversary of European settlement.

The Geneva-based WHO said the summit was the largest gathering of health ministers ever assembled on a single issue. A total of 600 delegates are attending.

In announcing the grant for fighting the disease in developing countries, British Health Secretary John Moore said "AIDS is no respecter of national boundaries and we need a global response to contain it."

Dr Jonathan Mann, the American director of WHO's special programme on AIDS, said summit delegates would exchange information about national public-health programmes and consider ways of co-ordinating them into a global campaign.

S.K. Mahmud, Secretary of the Interior Ministry, said foreign press clippings prompted Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo to send a message to him on Sunday to look into the statement handed down to Shahida Parveen.

The Associated Press reported the plight of the 25-year-old carpenter's daughter last December as she languished in a Karachi prison.

An Islamic court convicted her last Nov 7 of the capital crime, ruling that she was still legally married to Khushli Mohammed, 32, when she wed her cousin, 35-year-old Mohammed Sarwar.

Shahida maintains Khusli divorced her in 1986 because she could not have children and he wanted to marry another woman. But the court ruled that divorce papers presented by Shahida were forged.

Mahmud said he ordered the inspector-general of prisons in southern Sind province to send court documents to the prime minister.

"Matter most urgent," Mahmud said, reading his message over the telephone.

Meanwhile, an appeal filed by Sarwar is pending before an Islamic federal high court. If it upholds the sentence, the case still can go to Pakistan's Supreme Court, which applies a more lenient penal code drafted by the British during pre-1947 colonial rule.

Police teargas Dhaka protesters

DHAKA, Jan 26, (Reuter): Riot police swinging clubs clashed with anti-government strikers who shut down transport and commerce in Bangladesh today, leaving at least 100 injured, according to opposition leaders.

Police said 45 people were arrested for trying to organise illegal rallies.

The strike — the 20th in two months — was called to protest against police shooting in the southern port town of Chittagong which the opposition said killed 17 people and wounded more than 300 at a weekend rally.

Protests

Twenty-one opposition parties have staged strikes and protests since November 10 to force President Hossain Mohammad Ershad to resign. Ershad, who seized power in a 1982 coup, has refused.

Last month he dissolved parliament and called fresh elections in March which the opposition has vowed to boycott.

The government yesterday banned anti-election rallies and protests.

Earlier today, hundreds of home-made bombs packed with metal fragments exploded in the

streets of Dhaka apparently to scare people into staying at home during the strike.

Police said offices, banks and shops across the country were closed and little transport moved.

Officials said government houses, which have operated in previous strikes, had to stay off the road because fuel-tanker drivers joined the strike.

Grocery shops in Dhaka were emptied because of panic buying last night and some grocers said they were unable to replenish stocks because of the strike.

Strike

Dhaka police said the 12-hour strike passed off peacefully except for some stray incidents near Dhaka University and the Motijheel commercial district.

At least 30 opposition activists trying to organise pickets were hurt when police dispersed them with teargas. A government car was set afire, police said.

In Chittagong, more than 25,000 dock workers stayed at home today. Police with clubs chased stone-throwing protesters and about 50 people, including two policemen, were hurt.

World AIDS summit opens in London

UK announces \$8m grant

You could stop polio. You could make a start to prevent and control AIDS," she said.

About a dozen demonstrators gathered outside, under a thin drizzle, holding candles and demanding that AIDS victims' rights be respected.

The Geneva-based WHO said the summit was the largest gathering of health ministers ever assembled on a single issue. A total of 600 delegates are attending.

In announcing the grant for fighting the disease in developing countries, British Health Secretary John Moore said "AIDS is no respecter of national boundaries and we need a global response to contain it."

Dr Jonathan Mann, the American director of WHO's special programme on AIDS, said summit delegates would exchange information about national public-health programmes and consider ways of co-ordinating them into a global campaign.

Kidnapped attorney general found dead

on Sunday setting out conditions for Pastrana's release, the kidnappers declared "total war" against Colombians.

The communiqué was signed

by the "extraditables," meaning those under threat of extradition.

the same group that issued a communiqué in late November threatening to kill Colombian political leaders if alleged drug kingpin Jorge Luis Ochoa was extradited to the United States.

Medellin, Colombia's second-largest city, is headquarters of the country's most powerful drug barons, believed responsible for some 70 per cent of the cocaine that enters the United States.

Officials had feared for

Pastrana's life since blood was

found on his briefcase in his

official car.

Two of his

bodyguards died in the shootout

with about 10 gunmen who used

four vehicles, authorities said.

The body of Pastrana, aged 42, was found in the same village and Pastrana, candidate for mayor of Bogota, the Colombian capital, told reporters his captors, none of whom were arrested, had told him about plans to kidnap Pastrana.

In a communiqué made public

Police and religious political party playing big role

Drug mafia behind Karachi riots

By Ashraf Shah

THE Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM) leader Altaf Hussain has accused the drug mafia and its patrons, the police and an orthodox religious party of ethnic violence, in Karachi.

In an exclusive interview conducted in Karachi recently, the MQM leader told the Arabi Times that the influx of Afghan refugees into Pakistan was responsible for the growth of drug and arms trade, saying the drug mafia wanted to turn Karachi into the main heroin-trafficking centre in order to capture the international drug market.

He claimed the mafia has the full backing of bureaucracy and Karachi administration.

"The successful campaign launched by the MQM helped prevent heroin from reaching every home in Karachi and that is why the mafia considers the MQM the main hindrance in the drug trade," Altaf Hussain said.

He said the planned riots in mohajir-dominated areas in Karachi were planned by the mafia and an orthodox religious

party so that the MQM be responsible for ethnic riots.

Hussain strongly denied that his group has anything to do with ethnic tension, saying the MQM firmly believes in non-violence and peaceful campaign to defend the legitimate rights of the mohajir community who migrated in 1947 when Pakistan came into being.

"The MQM has no rivalry with the Punjabi, Pathan, Sindhi or Baluchi communities who have been exploiting Islam and Pakistan for their political ends," he said.

The MQM leader was highly critical of Pakistan's Afghan policy, saying the government should have helped the poor and needy in the country before inviting the Afghan refugees.

Rifaat rules out any competition with Western states

Egypt is not on an arms sales campaign in Gulf: envoy

By Jadranka Porter



EGYPT has spurned suggestions that it has embarked on an arms sales campaign in the Gulf in direct competition with the major Western arms manufacturers.

"We are not here to enter the race or play the role of a salesman," the Egyptian Ambassador to Kuwait, Saeed Mahmoud Rifaat told the Arab Times in an interview.

But he indicated that Egypt had an edge over its competitors saying that in offering to stand by Kuwait at the time of crisis Egypt is protecting the interests of the Arab nation.

"We are in a position to know the capabilities and needs of Arab countries much better than anyone else," Rifaat said.

Rifaat arrived in Kuwait on Jan 7 following the sudden death of Salahuddin Mohammed Hindawi.

Hindawi was the first Egyptian ambassador to Kuwait following the restoration of diplomatic ties between the two countries.

Assistance

Prior to his arrival in Kuwait Rifaat served in the information and political analysis department in Egypt's Foreign Ministry. Earlier he had been posted to the Egyptian diplomatic missions in London, Moscow, Brussels and Rabat.

Rifaat identified military

Iran had fired at Kuwait last year.

Intensive political consultations and cooperation in defence between Cairo and Kuwait are an outcome of the diplomatic reconciliation last November which followed an eight-year break caused by Egypt's peace treaty with Israel in 1979. Rifaat said there are signs that relations among the Arab countries are gaining momentum and efforts are being made to compensate for the lost time.

Realised

"Let's forget all the previous circumstances and commit ourselves to the joint Arab action," said Rifaat.

The Iran-Iraq conflict may have been a chief catalyst but not the only issue that prompted the Arab states to resume relations with Egypt, the envoy said.

"The Arab world has realised that Egypt has always met its obligations towards the Arab states and has deserved the Arab Defence Treaty," Rifaat said.

He said that President Hosni Mubarak undertook the Gulf tour to express solidarity with the Gulf states and renew his commitment to help fellow Arabs.

"President Mubarak is a practical man and a firm believer in the Arab-Egyptian relations and in the friendship between our country and Kuwait in particular," said Rifaat.

Specific deals confirming this new phase of cooperation between

the two countries will be hammered out during the forthcoming exchange of visits between Egyptian and Kuwaiti delegations, Rifaat said.

Although Egypt and Kuwait are poised to strengthen its cooperation in areas of diplomacy, defence, economic and cultural activity, the northern African state has not appealed to the Gulf states for help to settle its international debt, Rifaat said.

"Egypt is capable of getting into grips with its debt problem and we have successfully negotiated with the creditor countries to reschedule a portion of our debt," Rifaat said.

Influx

But he stressed that Egypt is keen to encourage foreign investment. He admitted that the joint venture programme had faced problems related to bureaucratic tangles but expressed hope that most Arab investors would show understanding for current efforts to smooth the way toward more efficient running of Egyptian economy.

Rifaat did not envisage a large influx of Egyptians to Kuwait following the diplomatic reconciliation.

"The size of the Egyptian workforce in Kuwait largely depends on the local market situation and I presume it will not change considerably," he said.

There are 175,000 Egyptians currently living in Kuwait.



Lulu Al Qatami (left) and Salma Al Hashem discuss the role of women in traffic safety.

Focus on women's role in traffic accident control

KUWAIT'S Road Safety Society held its weekly seminar on Monday with the focus on the role of women's societies in traffic accident control and increasing traffic safety awareness.

The society's lawyer Salma Al Hashem confirmed the importance of the role of women in traffic control, saying that about 25 to 30 percent of the number of motorists in Kuwait are women.

Lulu Al Qatami, the chairman of the Women's Cultural and Social Society, speaking at the seminar, stressed the importance of the family, school, legal system and private societies in increasing traffic safety awareness.

She added that schools give only slight attention to the issue while private societies had failed

to make any significant contribution so far.

A representative of the Girls Club Saher Al Messad expressed the opinion that female instructors should be provided at the drivers training school to teach women wanting to learn to drive. A questionnaire will also be distributed, she said, by the club which should provide insight into the problem.

Sabah Al Rayes, the chairman of the society, said that accidents caused by women were usually the result of driving mistakes rather than driving too fast. Some women hold their children while driving, he said, which created a distraction of their attention on the road.

Egypt offers agricultural expertise

EGYPT affirmed its readiness to offer research and scientific expertise to upgrade Kuwait's fish and agricultural development, a press statement said yesterday.

The statement, issued at the conclusion of the visit made by director general of Kuwait's Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fisheries Sheikh Ibrahim Al Duaib to Egypt between Jan 16-23, said the Kuwaiti official held successful talks with his host Deputy Premier and Minister of Agriculture and Lands reclamation Dr Yousef Wali on the basis of the Egyptian agricultural policy.

He explained that the colonies of algae rise to the surface of the water at a certain point in their development and that such a concentration was not unusual in Kuwaiti waters between December and February.

Hadi said that the air-bubbles seen in these drifting colonies were caused by the algae's respiratory process and were not the result of any chemicals in the water.

17 accidents

THERE were 17 traffic accidents in Kuwait yesterday.

Three took place in the capital, ten in Ahmadi and four in Jahra.

Oman's judicial system hailed

MUSCAT, Jan 26, (Kuwa): Yemen Arab Republic's Justice Minister Ahmed Mohammed Abdin Rahman and the accompanying delegation left here today after an official visit to Oman, Radio Muscat reported.

In a statement to the radio, the minister said that the outcome of the talks he held with Omani Minister of Justice, Awqaf, and Islamic Affairs Hilal Bin Harib was very fruitful and dealt with cooperation in the justice field.

Hailing the Omani judicial system, the Yemeni official said that Omani courts apply the exact Islamic sharia rules.

Workshop on oil pollution in Gulf

ABU DHABI, Jan 26, (AP): Iran and Iraq along with other Gulf countries began a three-day workshop yesterday on oil pollution in the Gulf, the arena of the so-called "tanker war."

Tankers loaded with crude, oil rigs and platforms often come under attack in the Gulf in the spillovers of the 7-year-old Iraq-Iran war.

There has been only one alarming spill in 1982 after an Iraqi air raid on Iran's Nowruz oil

Kuwait Health Minister Abdul Rahman Al Awadi, in a speech read on his behalf, urged cooperation among Gulf states to respond to pollution emergencies. More than 185 marine accidents took place last year because of the Iraq-Iran war.

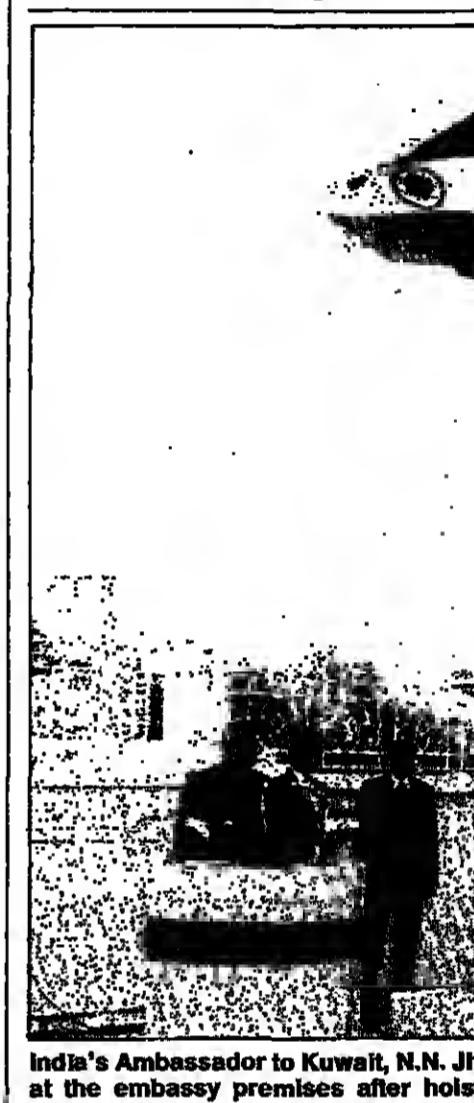
In his inaugural speech, UAE Health Minister Hamad Al Mafida said: "The protection of sea waters in this area from oil pollution is acquiring primary importance among all our countries."

He said this workshop, in which Western experts participate, "will clear the road for more coordination and additional creative efforts and serious work to allow us to travel a new distance toward achieving our goals."

National Day activities

ABDUL Rahman Al Mazroui, the acting Undersecretary of State for Social Affairs and Labour Ministry said the ministry is planning for the National Day activities which will begin next month, adding that organ-

isations and youth centres will hold art exhibits, sports events and social festivals. Cooperative societies and charity organisations will also participate in the festivities, he said.



India's Ambassador to Kuwait, N.N. Jha, delivers a speech at the embassy premises after hoisting the flag on the occasion of India's Republic Day. (Photo by Javed Basra)

Euro-Arab mayors to meet in Morocco

DIRECTOR general of the Arab Cities Organisation (ACO) Taleb Al-Taher said yesterday that a Euro-Arab meeting on the level of mayors will be held in Marrakech, Morocco next October.

The conference will be co-ordinated in cooperation between the Kuwait-based ACO and Europe's regions and municipalities council which has its main offices in Paris.

Al-Taher told Kuna that the organisation sponsored this meeting in realisation of the role played by regional and international bodies for cities and their influence on the public opinion and their connections to decision-makers in world countries.

He said, "The ACO hopes the meeting contributes in correcting images and notions which were created by historic circumstances of each side to the other."

In addition to expressing the Arab view toward the Iraq-Iran war and the Palestinian cause, Al-Taher noted that the conference aims at establishing ties between Arab and European city officials and exchanging scientific expertise among the two sides.

The ACO chief said that the organisation's permanent office had endorsed the idea of holding the conference during its 26th session in Damascus last April.

Al-Taher said that the organisation was keen since the start to contact the Arab League to get acquainted with its view on convening such a assembly and to cooperate with the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organisation (Alesco) to furnish all possible help to bring the conference to a success.

Modern House exhibition

KUWAIT'S Minister of Commerce and Industry Faisal Al-Khaled will open the Modern House exhibit at the International Fair Grounds in Misrash on Feb 3 with displays of furniture, modern kitchens, carpets, light fixtures and many other items that are part of the modern house.

This year's exhibit, which will cover 6,000 square metres, will feature 80 local and foreign furniture companies from West Germany, Taiwan, Thailand, Afghanistan.

The exhibition will run thru Feb 12.

Painting competition

A PAINTING and elocution competition will be held at the Indian Embassy auditorium on Jan 29 by the Kuwait Malayalee Samajam as part of celebrations of the 40th anniversary of India's independence and the 10th anniversary of the Samajam.

The painting competition will begin at 10 am and the elocution at 3 pm.

Winners of the painting competition will be presented with Edmund Thomas Clint memorial trophies and winners of the elocution contest with a trophy in memory of the late advocate C.J. Alexander.

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HONDA

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Saudi Foreign Minister to visit Moscow for Gulf war talks

MOSCOW, Jan 26. (UPI): The Soviet Union announced today that the Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia, which does not have diplomatic relations, is coming to Moscow for an official visit believed centred on the Gulf war.

Prince Saud Al Faisal will arrive "in the nearest future," Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov said. An Arab diplomat said the visit was expected by the end of this week.

The visit comes as the Soviet Union is calling for the UN Security Council to convene a meeting of foreign ministers to help organise the Middle East peace conference that has long been sought by the Kremlin.

"We intend to intensify consultations and set out looking for practical ways to defuse the problems that hamper the con-

vocations of the international conference," Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Petrovsky said of the Soviet call for Middle East talks.

Dominante
Gerasimov, speaking at the same news conference, did not identify the subjects to be discussed in the Saudi visit but said the prince would meet both President Andrei Gromyko and Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze.

The Soviet desire for a Middle East peace conference, which would mark its return to a central role in peace talks, was certain to be an agenda item during the Saudi visit.

However, a senior Arab source said the Gulf war would dominate the meetings, although other subjects such as the Middle East conference or economic

interests of the world's two biggest oil producers might also be discussed.

Although Saudi Arabia and the Soviet Union do not have diplomatic relations, contacts between the two countries have been increasing steadily in the past couple of years.

Arab sources said the Saudi Foreign Minister was bypassing the lack of diplomatic relations this time by coming as the representative of the Gulf Cooperation Council, which groups all the Arab states along the Gulf.

Gerasimov said he was coming as "a guest of the Soviet government," but said the initiative for the visit had come from the Saudi side.

Prince Saud was in Moscow last year as part of an Arab League delegation discussing the

Gulf war and the Saudi Oil Minister visited officially on behalf of Opec.

Although the conservative Saudi regime is still believed reluctant to take the dramatic step of establishing full diplomatic relations, Moscow has established embassies in Oman and the United Arab Emirates under Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

The Gulf Arab states fear an escalation of the Iran-Iraq conflict that would threaten their vulnerable oil facilities. Although supporting Iraq diplomatically and financially, they are officially neutral.

The Soviet Union has attempted to maintain its good relations with both Iraq and Iran, calling for a cease fire but hesitating to endorse the US call for an arms embargo against Iran.



HH the Amir yesterday received Ali Naser, the envoy of the Comoro Islands.

Balladur to hold wide-ranging talks

By Jadranka Porter

FRENCH Economics and Finance Minister Edouard Balladur arrived in Kuwait yesterday to sign an economic cooperation agreement and hold wide-ranging talks with Kuwaiti leaders.

Balladur, who was received at the airport by his Kuwaiti counterpart Jassim Al Khorafi, will today meet HH the Amir and HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah. He will also confer with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed and the defence minister.

Balladur is on the third leg of a four-nation Arab tour that also took him to Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

Boost

He will reaffirm France's commitment to economic cooperation with Kuwait when he signs this afternoon an annually renewable Kuwaiti-French agreement which centres on finance and investment issues of mutual interest.

"France and Kuwait have a longstanding relationship based on mutual respect," Balladur said in the arrival statement. France, he said, shares to a large extent Kuwait's stance on issues of foreign policy which include problems in the Gulf region.

Kuwaiti to stand trial for slander

A KUWAIT national stands trial on Feb 6 for publicly advocating in writing the overthrow of the present regime and slandering HH the Amir, a spokesman of the State Security Court told Kuna yesterday.

The spokesman said the accused is charged with inciting openly and in public places by way of writing for overthrowing the present regime and slandering the Amir.

Ismail Sayed Hassan Sayed Ali Al-Abbar who is currently held in detention pending trial, will be tried by a three-judge panel presided by Mohammad Abdul Hai Al-Bannay and the membership of Ahmed Tahir Khalil, and Saud Abdul Karim Al-Safran with Sultan Abu Jarroa presiding.

The opening session will be procedural for the press and the public, the spokesman said.

Japan names new envoys

TOKYO, Jan 26. (Kuna): The Japanese government today announced the appointment of new ambassadors to Saudi Arabia, Syria, Jordan and Bahrain.

Koji Watanabe, 53, director of the Economic Cooperation Bureau, was named Ambassador to Saudi Arabia.

After joining the Foreign Ministry in 1956, Watanabe had served as minister to China and head of the information analysis, research and planning bureau.



Edouard Balladur

Kuwait's attitude towards France has been one of steadfastness, stability and continuity, he added.

Welcoming Balladur, Al Khorafi, who met the minister in Paris last year, said the visit would boost the relations between the two countries.

In a press conference before his departure from Abu Dhabi, Balladur called for an international peace conference on the Middle East and stressed the need to implement UN Security Council resolution 598 ordering a ceasefire in the Gulf war. He described Franco-Arab relations as "excellent." Balladur leaves today for Amman, Jordan.

KD681m spent on security services

A STUDY prepared by the Research and Studies Department at Kuwait's Interior Ministry shows a KD681 million expenditure on security services for the ten year period from 1974 to 1984.

The study, which showed an increase in spending for security systems compared to health and education services, was prepared by 11 researchers and was supervised by the director of the department Abdul Majed Khurab.

ROYAL COURT

Amiri audiences

HH the Amir yesterday received Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber following his return from the emergency Arab League meeting on Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab lands which was held two days ago in Tunisia.

Later the Amir received the Comoro Islands' envoy Ali Naser who conveyed a message to the Amir from the Comoro President.

The Amir also received the ambassadors of Tunisia and Pakistan on the occasion of the end of their missions to Kuwait.

Congratulations

HH the Amir yesterday sent a congratulation message to the Australian Governor-General on the occasion of his country's National Day.

HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al-Abdullah Al-Sabah also sent a similar congratulation message to the Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke.

Cabinet reviews past achievements

plagued the country for several years.

He also mentioned the decree allowing the government to issue bonds worth \$1,400 million for the public.

The premier expressed appreciation for three resigning ministers, noting that they have worked sincerely to fulfil their duties and obligations.

The resolute boat was announced yesterday brought three new faces to the cabinet. The three previous ministers, who served for a year and a half, expressed their desire to resign.

In yesterday's cabinet meeting, the Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmed briefed the ministers on the recent Arab foreign ministers' urgent meeting in Tunisia.

He said the decisions of the meeting met the challenges facing the Arab nation, especially the Israeli threat to Arab Palestinians living under occupation.

The cabinet also listened to a report by Finance Minister Jassem Al-Khorafi on his recent tour in the Far East and the Pacific. The minister briefed the Council of Ministers on the details of his talks with leaders of the countries he visited.

Saddam approves of GCC talks with Iran

(Continued from Page 1)

Saddam stressed that all people were all united, whether Sunnis, Shiites, Kurds or Christians.

In Washington, Pentagon officials said that US Defense Secretary Frank C. Carlucci has authorised a small reduction in the number of US warships deployed in the war-torn Gulf, including the withdrawal of the battleship Iowa.

The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the drawdown would begin around Feb 18. The number of ships assigned to the Middle East force will change only slightly — dropping by three or four — but the makeup will be realigned, the sources said.

US Secretary of State George Shultz conceded that US efforts to obtain a UN arms embargo against Iran were "stalling."

Kuwait renews support for Palestinian struggle

KUWAIT yesterday renewed total support for the Palestinian struggle against Israeli occupation forces in Palestine, and emphasised that the uprising has consolidated the Palestinian and Arab cause in international forums.

State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Rashed Abdul Aziz Al-Rashed said the upheaval in occupied Palestine, which is closing its second month soon, has sent shudders among the Israelis.

"We Arabs have moral duty to support our brethren by providing their needs," the Kuwaiti cabinet spokesman said during a meeting with a Jordanian student delegation Monday night.

Al-Rashed cautioned against using the rising mass demonstrations in occupied Palestine for personal or factional interests, saying this could undermine the struggle.

He pointed out that the Israeli entity was living through its most difficult time, and argued that the flare-up in anti-occupation activities would definitely force a drop in Jewish immigration to Palestine.

Al-Rashed suggested that Arabs should sink differences and work hand in hand to achieve fair and lasting solutions to their causes at the UN particularly the Palestinian problem.

Hailing the outcome of the

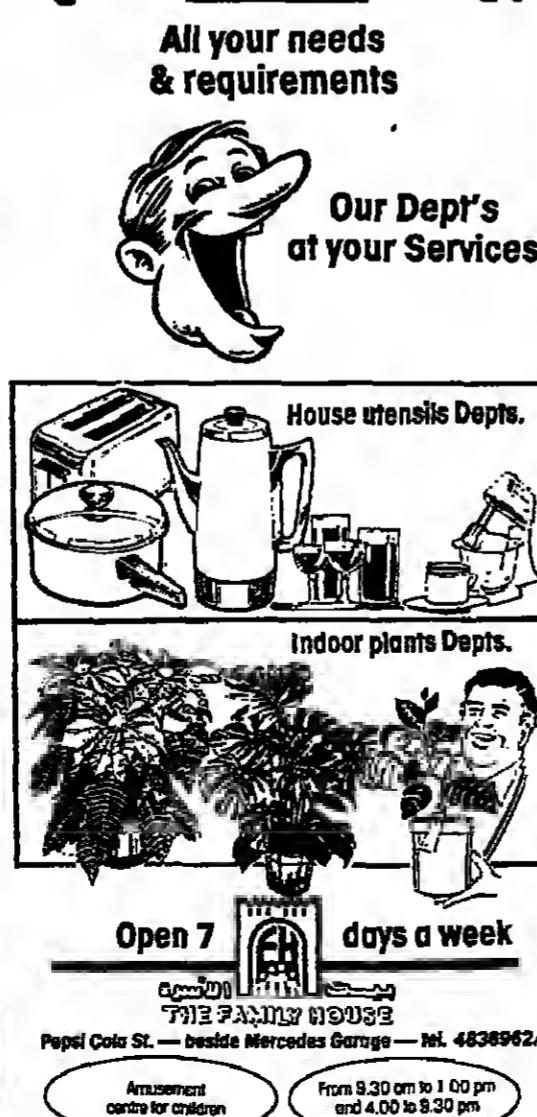
extraordinary Arab summit in Amman last November, the Kuwaiti official said it had opened a new door for sincere Arab cooperation, the first step towards Arab solidarity.

The state minister pointed out that Kuwait had initiated contacts with all world capitals that could help enforce UN Security Council resolution 598 ordering a comprehensive solution to the Iran-Iraq war.

Asked about Kuwaiti-Soviet ties, Al-Rashed stressed they are good and cooperation between the two countries cover a wide range of fields despite Kuwait's announced opposition to the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan.

● Pakistani Ambassador Khaled Saleem is cutting a cake at the farewell reception hosted by the Syrian Ambassador Eissa Al-Darwishi (left), in his capacity as the dean of the diplomatic corps on Monday at the Kuwait Sheraton hotel.

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EVENTS

VIDEO CORNER

A sad tale of envy and fear

By Gall Seery

CASE CELEBRE is an adaptation of Terence Rattigan's stage play of the same name, and tells a true story of a murder which caused a media sensation in 1935. It is a disturbing story, and asks the viewer to re-examine his own beliefs and prejudices.

Mrs Rattenbury employs a boy of 18 — who looks a good deal older, to assist her maid, and before long the two are having an affair. Mr Rattenbury is significantly older than his young wife, superbly played by Helen Mirren, and co-edges, even encourages and expects the pair's adultery.

Then one night he brutally clubbed to death, and Mrs Rattenbury promptly makes a

statement that she did it with the mallet that Bowman, her lover, borrowed from his father that afternoon. She clings to the story in all its inadequacy and obvious inaccuracy, and only relents and tells the truth in court after being presented with her oldest son, who clearly needs her at home, and out hanged.

Much of the story is set in court, where the media sensation and scandalous aspects of the case are shown to overshadow the issue of murder. We have seen that Bowman is in fact the strongest of the two lovers, and that he is prone to jealous and homicidal scenes, and his hands readily encircle her throat at the least sign of her

The jury are directed to put aside their revulsion, and to

concentrate instead on the issue of who killed Mr Rattenbury. This they do, Mrs Rattenbury is released, and Bowman is sentenced to hang.

For his part he has become horribly jealous of her husband, despite the fact that the old man, played by Harry Andrus, can no longer sleep upstairs as he can't cope with the stairs. His defence in court is that he was crazed on cocaine — though he is not put in the witness box because it would take such a short time to break that story — he thinks that cocaine is brown with black specks. This cocaine addiction is also blamed on Mrs Rattenbury.

The story ends with her walking along a river bank. "If only I thought it would help Bowman I would stay too, but it's been pointed out to me too vividly I can't help him. All the newspapers said it was I who should be hanged, not him."

In the public mind her crime of adultery, with a boy some 15 years younger than her, was far more significant than the crime of murder. Her counsel tells her that the crowds who wait outside the court are fools who loathe her with the intense hatred of envy and fear. Nevertheless, the public vilification is made any easier to bear by that explanation, and she kills herself. Shortly afterwards Bowman's sentence is reduced to life imprisonment.

It's an interesting but very sad story of public attitudes, and is beautifully and sensitively presented. The sad thing is that the attitudes that the story highlights and condemns are just as strong and just as powerful today.

Detectives caught off guard

By Brian Hollis

ONE of the best action comedies I've seen for a long time is Stakeout, starring Richard Dreyfuss and Emilio Estevez as two Seattle detectives detailed to speed two weeks watching an apartment.

A vicious murderer has escaped from prison and the police think he might head for Washington state to look up his old girlfriend. The stakeout in a dilapidated warehouse across the road from the girl's house is so boring that the two detectives spend their time playing practical jokes on the detectives who run the day shift, and Dreyfuss gets to know the girl by posing as a telephone repair man in order to hug her phone.

However, love blossoms, and soon Dreyfuss is spending most of the time watching the girl from the comfort of her own bed, much to the chagrin of poor Emilio shivering in the warehouse across the road. Eventually, of course, the inevitable happens, and Dreyfuss is caught napping, hot from start to end there are

some excellent situations and gags. No wonder this one topped the American box office charts for six weeks!

Since moving to Hollywood about eight years ago, Dudley Moore has been starring in about one film every year, but although most of his films are quite amusing, none of the most recent have been more than passing successes. His latest Like Father Like Son made it to number two in the American box office a couple of months ago and has been riding high ever since.

In the movie, father Dudley Moore is very unlike son Kirk Cameron. Father is a workaholic surgeon who believes his son should follow in his footsteps and spend all his time studying. The son thinks he should be out playing sports and making it with the college girls. An anthropologist uncle turns up with an Indian brew which is meant to switch minds, and whoops by accident father's hair becomes son's and vice versa for a few days. The son, with his father's hair is obviously the worst off — he

manages to alienate all of his friends with a few hours and fails in sports as well as sex, although he manages to improve his grades dramatically.

Meanwhile, the father (with son's hair) is having difficulty performing delicate operations in the hospital, but has better luck with his boss's wife. After a couple of days both are thoroughly fed up with their new personas, and zip off out to the desert to find the antidote. Of course, meanwhile, father has learned to appreciate son and vice versa.

It's difficult to see how this one made it to number two, as the storyline is totally unoriginal, and Dudley only really shines in a few scenes where he is allowed to get down to some real slapstick. In terms of morals, the film could well have been made thirty years ago, which at least means that viewers in Kuwait can see a film with virtually no cuts.

However, it is an enjoyable film, and should provide a couple of hours relaxation to a wide range of viewers.

Despite its title, Siam Dance

has little to do with dancing or slumming. CC Droid (Tom Hulce of *Amadeus*) is a success, if chaotic, E.A. cartoonist with marital problems. His nightmare begins when he is suspected of involvement in the murder of a beautiful blonde with whom he once had a steamy affair. Droid has to turn sleuth to try to track down the real killer, using what he can remember of police photos as clues. For a short while there seems to be a chance that the film will turn into the yuppie nightmare of *Blind Date* or *Something Wild*, or maybe, we will be treated to a dazzling murder mystery. Unfortunately, the film simply peters out into a character study which becomes boring if not irritating. There's a lot of style and swinging eighties, but very little

substance underneath.

This week's best-seller is

Nancy Wake, an Australian four-hour mini-series starring Noni Hazlehurst and John Waters. It is based on the true story of Australia's most decorated war hero, a woman who went to France to hunt for her husband and ended up as a leader and inspiration to the whole French resistance movement. The story has a good balance of action and emotional content and should please the regulars.

Several new made-for-TV movies are quite compelling viewing. Father Clement's Story stars Louis Gosset Jr. as the black American priest who adopts a young boy who is always in trouble, in order to give him one last chance to go straight. The cardinal, however, uses all his power to keep them apart. Another new release concerned with the priesthood is *Fatal Confession*, but this time it's a murder mystery with Father Dowling as the sleuth. In *The King of Love*, Nick Mancuso is the man behind one of America's most successful girlie magazines, and the film charts his progress via court cases and various objections to becoming one of



Virginia Madsen and Tom Hulce in Siam Dance

WHAT'S ON

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National Museum

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Dahiyat Abdullah

An exhibition of sculptures and paintings by Arab artist Rida Saleh is now on at the Dahiyat Abdullah Al Saleh Gallery in Mansouriya; open from 8 am to 12 noon and 4 to 8 pm, until Jan 30.

THEATRE

KLT — Comedy

The next production at KLT is a comedy *Say Who You Are*, directed by Steve Prescott. Gala performance at 7 pm on Feb 1. Repeat performances are at 7.30 pm on Feb 2, 3, and 4. Tickets — KD3. For reservations call 3947651. Tickets must be collected from the Box Office, KLT, Ahmadi, or from Family Bookshop, Salimiyah, two days before the performance date.

SOCIAL

Children's Books Exhibition

A children's book exhibition is being held at the British Council in Mansouriya. The exhibition features award-winning books by prominent British illustrators and authors exhibited at the Frankfurt International Book Fair. The exhibition is sponsored by the British Council and is being held in cooperation with the Kuwait Bookshop. It will be open from 9 am to 12 noon and 3 to 8 pm, until Jan 28.



Tonight is barbecue night around the swimming pool at the Kuwait Maridien, featuring a selection of mezzeh, salads, barbecued meat and seafood. Entertainment is provided by Ghassan Najar.

Sangam Music Show

Sangam, a local group, will hold a music show at Messiah Beach Hotel at 6.30 pm on Feb 3. A selection of popular Urdu, Hindi, Punjabi and English songs will be presented. Entertainment also includes fire dance, lava dance and a magic show. For details phone 3260455, 7 am to 3 pm.

Janpan Week

A seminar on Japanese business will be held on Feb 3 at the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Building from 8.30 am to 5.30 pm. For further details, Tel. 2518152/2518440 or the Japaoese Society — 2533000 ext. 1156.

Kapilku Membership

Filipinos are invited to join Kapilku. Membership cards are available at the Philippine Embassy. For details call Jojo — 4877793.

Indian Arts Circle

A variety show will be held at the new IAC premises on Jan 28, Thursday, 7.30 pm, to celebrate the Republic Day of India. Students of the Indian, New Indian and Carmel Schools will take part in the show. Dance, music and songs will also be presented by Sudarshan Kala Mandir, Bharati Kalai Mandra, Puojahai cultural Society and Upasana. All Indians are welcome.

Contact

The information group for women, Cootact, will be held on Jan 30, Saturday, from 10 am at the SAS Hotel. Newcomers particularly welcome. Tel: 3949807; 4874513; 5383999.

German-Speaking Cultural Association

On Jan 31 a video film about the Hanan Village will be shown at the Kuwait Women's Society in Khaldiya. Women interested to attend should gather at 9.30 am at the German School. All are welcome.

Goan Show

The Goan Community will hold a cultural show to celebrate the 40th anniversary of India's independence on Feb 3, 3.30 pm at the Indian Arts Circle, Firdaless. Invitation cards available from the Football Club, Kuwait Goans Association, N.G.O.A. and organisers. Transport will be available at 2.30 pm on Friday (Feb 5) from the Church in Kuwait City, Abbasia Coop and Farwaniya, main road (opp. Grand Stores, now closed).

HOTELS

Al Holiday Inn

Al Daa Restaurant offers fresh fish/seafood specialities in tonight's Sea Drama on Ice promotion.

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Dahiyat

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

TOLERATION is the best religion — Victor Hugo, French writer (1802-1885).

Mine threat in Gulf yet to be over

By Richard Pyle

MANAMA, Bahrain, (AP): As several foreign navies consider reducing their mine-sweeping forces in the Gulf, critics warn that a cutback could leave the waterway vulnerable to Iranian mines again.

Some officials have said they fear that Tehran has refrained from laying mines recently in the hope that it will pressure the Europeans and perhaps even the Americans to scale down their costly naval commitments.

In recent days, Britain, Italy, Belgium and the Netherlands were reported to be preparing to withdraw some of the mine hunters dispatched to the Gulf after the US-flag supertanker Bridgeton hit a mine last July 24 while sailing in a US Navy convoy.

The reported cutback, amounting to about 18 per cent of the 40-odd foreign warships in the Gulf, would leave the United States with the largest mine-clearing force in the waterway.

Optimism

Even that would be reduced if the Pentagon goes through with expected plans to pull out the 11,000-ton helicopter carrier Okinawa with its four RH-53D Sea Stallion mine-sweepers.

Since the international effort began, about 60 mines have been found in and near the Gulf. The Americans found half — 15 in the so-called Fars channel where the Bridgeton was hit, nine aboard the captured Iranian mine layer Iran Ajr, and six more in the waters where that vessel was seized Sept. 21.

Britain said it found 10 mines and the French nine, but some of those were in coastal waters outside the Gulf. No other Western navies found any. The Soviets reportedly have found at least one.

As if to underscore official optimism that the mine threat has subsided, all six of the US ocean mine sweepers were anchored at Bahrain on one recent day. But some officers warn against complacency.

"It would be foolish to suggest the mine threat is over," said a US mine warfare officer.

The Okinawa's departure is expected to result from a review of the American forces makeup by new Defense Secretary Frank Carlucci, based on his visit to the Gulf in early January.

Carlucci must decide whether pulling out the carrier and its helicopters would subject the Navy convoys of resupplied tankers to a renewed mine threat.

The Sea Stallions have served

Saga of academics held hostage

BEIRUT, (UPI): Four foreign academics, three Americans and an Indian, completed their first bleak year as hostages yesterday with no prospect of release in sight.

"Don't worry, this is only a show," said Professor Robert Polhill a year ago as gunmen posing as policemen dragged him and three colleagues away. Their wives looked on in horror.

The four from Beirut University College (BUC) fell victim to an elaborate kidnap plot. A year later they are still held, with no sign of their early release.

The abduction of Alann Steen, Robert Polhill, Jesse Turner and Indian Mithileshwar Singh was the most daring act of its kind in four years of kidnapping in lawless West Beirut and prompted President Reagan to order Americans out of Lebanon.

Their wives have remained in Beirut, sharing the ordeal.

Four clean-shaven men dressed as policemen and carrying US-made M-16 rifles had arrived at the BUC campus at noon to discuss better security arrangements for the academics.

After nightfall they returned and met the four men and their wives. Minutes later they forced

as mine hunters ahead of US convoys, finding none — a result that does not justify the cost, some critics say.

"The helicopters are only a band-aid, with no sustained capability, and no good against modern mines," says retired Rear Adm. Eugene Carroll, deputy director of the Centre for Defence Information, a Washington-based group that regularly assails Pentagon policies.

Helicopter advocates concede their limitations but say the failure to find mines may simply mean their presence discouraged seeding.

The Sea Stallions' departure would leave the United States with six wooden-hulled ocean mine sweepers. The Navy was derided for towing the creaky, Korean war-vintage craft on a 21/2 month journey to the Gulf, but they vindicated themselves by finding more mines than any using more modern vessels.

Overall, that performance and the Iran Ajr capture has enabled the navy to salvage some of the reputation besmirched by the Bridgeton fiasco.

US mine warfare officers, who are mapping the Gulf floor with sonar, take a cautious view of their success, saying the problem is "under control."

A note of caution also came from Capt. Bob Money, commander of the British frigate Scylla, who said recently that although "known minefields" have been cleared, "we can't send them (the mine hunters) home as it would take six weeks to bring them back if the threat reappeared."

The Times of London reported, meanwhile, that Britain, the Netherlands and Belgium were planning to cut their mine-hunting forces by half and combine the rest — two British craft and one each from the other two — under an "integrated" command.

Agreed

Diplomatic sources said the three countries' defence ministers agreed to the plan in a London meeting, but there has been no official confirmation.

The Times said the cutback was acceptable because the southern Gulf was "clear of mines," and called the integrated command a "logical" spinoff of the present arrangement, under which the Belgian and Dutch have operated under joint command, protected by the Royal Navy.

Italian Defence Minister Valerio Zanone told Parliament on Jan 13 that Italy would withdraw one of its three mine hunters and the support ship Anteo, probably by early February.

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It can pose the biggest political headache for Thatcher

Britain's cradle-to-grave health service sick

By Al Webb

LONDON, (UPI): Nurses are striking for the first time in Britain's history. A four-year-old boy waits months for hole-in-the-heart surgery. The number of hospital beds drops while the waiting list to use them soars.

After 40 years, Britain's "cradle-to-grave" National Health Service, once the jewel in the crown of UK socialism, is in a major crisis. It could pose the biggest political headache yet for Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

Money to fuel the NHS is running out — and renegeing on the guarantee of lifelong free medical care that most Britons take for granted is a sure-fire way to raise the hackles of voters who put governments in power, and remove them.

The NHS, which began life as a Labour party dream on July 5, 1948, with a budget of £1.75 billion (£3.19 billion at today's rate), today is a nightmare of cost overruns despite the whopping £29 billion (£52.8 billion) it takes to operate.

Transfusion

The Conservative government has just given the NHS a £102 million (£18.6 million) transfusion to keep it alive until the next budget, in March. There are serious doubts it is anywhere near enough.

Dr Tony Smith, deputy editor of the British Medical Journal, dismisses it as "nothing like large enough" to stave off budget deficits. Neil Kinnock, leader of

the opposition Labour Party, says more than 10 times that much is needed to enable the NHS to cope.

The human dimensions to the crisis are perhaps more telling.

• Matthew Collier, 4, has waited since last September for a life-saving operation to repair a hole in his heart. The reason: a shortage of intensive care staff, including nurses, at Birmingham's children's hospital.

• British nurses, for the first time, have staged walkouts to protest what they say are planned cuts in the extra pay they earned for working "unsocial" hours. It started in Manchester. Nurses in London are threatening to follow.

• Other nurses, fed up with long hours and low pay, are migrating to richer grounds. One advertisement drew 500 applicants for nursing jobs in Australia. Others are off to the United States, where the pay is double for less work.

• According to Labour party figures undisputed by the Conservatives, 687,000 would-be surgery patients are waiting, some for more than a year, for about 28,000 available hospital beds, a drop of about 19,000 in the number of beds in the last eight years.

• From John Branczik, general manager of London's West Middlesex Hospital, running short of beds and staff: "The only way you can get in here is if you are nearly dying, and you are aboard a blue-flashing (emergency) ambulance."

• From an unprecedented news-

Finst

Yet Britain's health service is still considered one of the finest in the world, and statistics contradict the horror stories. Eight hospital beds for every 1,000 people compared with six in the United States; 85 nurses for every 10,000 Britons to 50 in America.

Oddly enough, it seems the NHS's success threatens to be its own undoing. It is keeping more Britons alive longer, resulting in an ageing society that needs more money than ever to tend its needs.

None of the NHS's founders ever dreamed of the miraculous strides forward — and the attendant costs — in medical science in the next four decades. Hip replacements were undreamed of in 1948. In Britain today, there are 40,000 such operations per year, at an average of \$3,200 (£5,824) each.

The result is that not even Thatcher's 30 per cent increase in spending on the NHS in her eight years in office — well above inflation figures — has stemmed the erosion that today finds 100 of the country's 192 health districts poised on a financial scalpel.

To balance their budgets, many have cut nursing staff and wards. At Maidstone Hospital southeast of London, for example, a splendidly equipped 28-

bed ward is serving as a nurses' coat closet. There is not enough money to allow patients to use it.

Manchester General Hospital who in January went on the nation's first-ever nurses' strike, had no regrets and perhaps a portent for the future.

Now that we've done it once, next time, unfortunately, it's going to be a lot more easier."

Complaints

Shortages, and resultant services, vary from hospital to hospital with no discernible pattern.

An American resident on NHS was diagnosed for double hernia in late September 1987, was promptly admitted for surgery five weeks later to London's Charing Cross Hospital — where, he noted, there were staff and beds aplenty — and was home within five days.

By contrast, there is Birmingham's Children's Hospital, where baby David Barber survived five postponements of his hole-in-the-heart operation and young Matthew Collier waited more than four months for similar surgery — both because of staff shortages.

Barber died 10 days after his operation, and although cardiac surgeon Babul Sethia said the delays were not to blame, he described the case as an example of the "evil" in an under-funded system.

Sethia provided more somber figures — 11 newborn and infant cardiac patients refused admission, 54 of the hospital's 199 beds empty, 82 children on the surgical waiting list, all because of a lack of nursing staff.

Nurses, in turn, are rebelling, risking criticism they are violating what one critic described as Florence Nightingale's "Victorian values of unquestioning service."

Helen Powell, one of 37 at



Margaret Thatcher

Boysen suggests the government set up a scheme under which to help pay the cost of such insurance, each individual would receive a voucher worth \$546, the average per capita cost of the NHS.

Oppose

Thatcher, well aware of British sensitivities over their health service, is unlikely to take such a draconian step.

What is more likely, says health analyst Hugh Elwell, is a government attempt to raise additional revenue and at the same time discourage abuses of the NHS system by imposing charges of at least \$10 to see a doctor and about \$45 per night for hospital accommodation.

Britons are left in doubt as to what they want something done — but they, too, are not certain what.

In a recent Daily Telegraph poll, 22 per cent saw the health service as the country's most pressing problem. But 88 per cent opposed charging for dental checks and 89 per cent were against paying for eye tests. Paying for visits to doctors or for hospital beds are likely to prove no more popular.

The Economist magazine suggests that, to improve health service efficiency, the government should encourage competition by allowing private management to run a few hospitals, letting efficient hospitals sell treatment to those with long waiting lists ... (and) opening up general practice to competitive tender.

Member of Parliament Sir Rhodes Boysen, a former Conservative minister and one of Thatcher's staunchest supporters, goes even further and proposes every Briton he required to take out private medical insurance.

The National Health Service is vital," he says. "To let it run down to the point where it cannot deliver the care needed would be a national disaster."

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1695 — Mustafa II succeeds as Sultan of Turkey on death of Ahmad II.
- 1822 — Greek independence is proclaimed formally.
- 1865 — Treaty between Spain and Peru virtually recognises Peru's independence.
- 1914 — Haiti's President Oreste Abdesque during revolt, and US marines land to preserve order.
- 1943 — US bombers first all-US air raid on Germany in World War II — a daylight attack on Wilhelmshaven; German begins civil conscription of women.
- 1944 — Soviet city of Leningrad is liberated completely from Germans in World War II.
- 1947 — Regional advisory commission for the Pacific is established.
- 1950 — United States agrees to provide arms to Nato members.
- 1964 — France establishes diplomatic relations with China

SPECTRUM

By Kathy Cuddihy

I received the news of a friend's impending book release with sincere happiness and enthusiasm on her behalf. Then she pushed her luck slightly by pounding at my door early one morning, frantically waving a letter in her hand.

"What's all the excitement, for goodness' sake? Has someone volunteered to pay your book overprint?"

"Better, much better," she announced breathlessly. "Read this. You won't believe it."

You're right. I probably won't believe it. As a writer, I know better than to believe anything I read."

As I skimmed the contents of the letter, certain sentences jumped out at me, little catch phrases such as, "Congratulations. You have a real winner on your hands." "We would like to discuss a second printing of 20,000 copies."

Sheesh! This woman's first attempt at a book had produced a hot little number that my hasty calculations estimated would net her over \$100,000 in royalties! And all this was the result of a 5-day holiday, no less. There is no justice.

I still felt elation for her success ... or impending success, but I also felt that perhaps I was getting left behind at the starting line.

A paragraph in the newspaper heightened my sinking emotions: "So-and-so, a former free-lance contributor to this newspaper, has just signed a new book contract. Rumour has it she has negotiated \$30,000 for her yet-to-be finished gothic romance."

In a display of cameraderie, a chum at the

Out of print



newspaper phoned to give me an update on the deal. "We've found that it's actually \$40,000 she'll get. That's not too bad, is it?"

"Not to shabby at all," I muttered with diminishing zeal. "And just how many books does she have to write out for all that, money?"

"Just one! She's only written 3 chapters and some big publishing house grabbed her. Isn't it fantastic?"

"Fantastic?" I retorted, letting my jealousy surge to the surface. "It sounds immoral to me. I have 2 unfinished manuscripts in my desk and both of them have a lot more than 3 chapters. Why hasn't anyone offered me \$40,000 to finish them? With incentive like that I could

say goodbye to the starvation wages of newspaper work."

"Gee, Kath," came an awed reply. "I didn't know you were writing a book — 2 books, no less. What are they about?"

"Well, they are non-fiction and the subjects are rather sensitive. After all the trouble 'Spycatcher' caused I don't want to take any chances until they're in print. I hope you understand."

I figured that lice might get him off my back for a while. I wouldn't have been caught dead revealing the true working titles: "How to House-Train Geckoes" and "Are You At the End of Your Rope?" a how-to book about collecting string. Better to let them

reach the best seller's list so I could enjoy the last laugh than to suffer an avalanche of snide comments along the road to success.

I hung up the phone and glared at my moth-eaten manuscripts. Something inside me kept nagging that there had to be a faster, easier and more profitable way to earn a living as a writer. What I needed was little "think tank". "By golly, that's it." I shouted at no one.

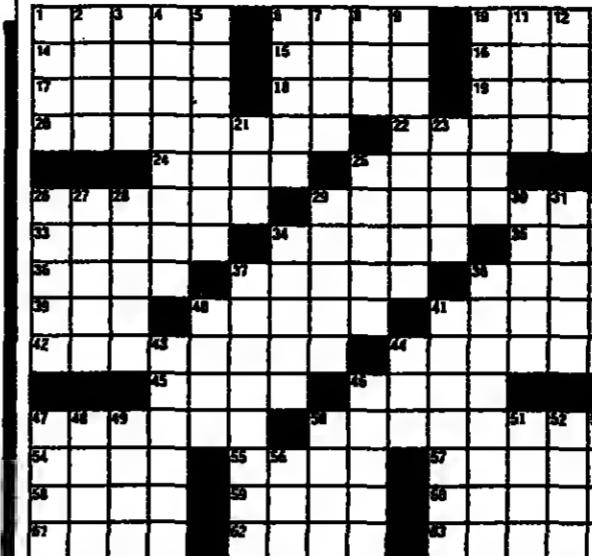
I would recruit a few women with fertile imaginations, ply them with something cool and refreshing (no, I don't mean ice cubes), and encourage them to fantasize into my tape recorder. We would have the outline of a Great Romance Novel in no time.

Of course, I would have to invite just the right people. There should be a couple of romantic dreamers, someone with a devious mind to provide the twist in the plot, and at least one person with a sharp sense of humour. Since my conscience tells me that I shouldn't belittle the labours of serious romance writers, I would make my effort a parody — certainly a more entertaining venture for me if for no one else.

I can already hear a few of you readers thinking, "You know, that's really not a bad idea." Well let me tell you, it's a great idea. So great that I've taken the trouble to copyright it, patent it, or whatever else needs to be done to preserve it as mine, mine, mine.

And if, in spite of my precautions, one of you people follow my plan, get a big offer from a publisher, and have a success on your hands ... I'd at least like a slice of the profits ... and a copy of the book.

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



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10 Oodles 55 Division word 32 "Picnic" playwright and family
14 Island republic, W. Pacific Ocean 57 Indy 500 entrant 58 — Levu: Fiji island
15 Island dance 59 World's longest river
16 Soft drink flavor 60 Nine: Prafix 61 Heritable land in old Scandinavia
17 Gudrun's husband at el. 62 Selves 63 Expert
18 Soviet sea 22 Endured
19 Mod musical 24 Land of the Kurds: Var.
20 Province of NE China 25 Young hawk
21 Himalayan cedar 26 55th anniversary
29 People of northern India 30 Southern
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34 Boy scout badge 32 Marine worm
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39 1st class soldier 37 Voting district
40 In a frenzied manner 38 21 Mideast org: 1958-61
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42 Republic of Central America 40 Confederate General Jubal
44 New ones 41 Sweep clean
45 Organic compound 42 Ditch, old style
46 Skirt feature 43 Muse of lyric poetry
47 Hearty soup 44 Humorist Nash
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Former pop star now in the big league

Cher achieves stardom by doing it her way



Cher is Kathleen Riley, a public defender who represents a man accused of murder.

By Ivor Davis

IT has taken a long time but Cher is finally respectable.

At 41, an age when many Hollywood actresses have one foot in the plastic-surgeon's office and the other in the unemployment line, she has made three movies back-to-back and has ascended to that rarified list of performers offered first crack at any script.

With Jessica Lange, Jane Fonda, Sally Field, Meryl Streep and Barbara Streisand, Cher is now in the big league.

If there was any doubt — and there was — that Cher is a top-notch actress, she has dispelled it as Kathleen Riley in the romantic thriller *Suspect*. She plays an overworked, burned-out attorney forced to defend a transient accused of murdering a Washington secretary.

Since there have been other successful roles — the ditzy waitress in the 1982 Broadway production *Come Back to the 5 & Dime, Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean*; Meryl Streep's lesbian roommate in *Silkwood* (for which she received an Oscar nomination in 1983); *Rusty*, a drug-addict mother, in *Mask* (1985); and the eccentric sculptress opposite Jack Nicholson in *The Witches of Eastwick* (1987).

However, those characters were so far out on the edge of society that they seemed almost

another species. Riley, on the other hand, is part of the fabric of society, a public defender in Washington, D.C., a woman who went to a reputable university, a superior law school, a woman who wears suits. Cher plays her so convincingly that you never doubt her for a moment.

Mainstream

Cher says that entering the mainstream did not come naturally. "I was intimidated by the role in *Suspect* when I first read it," she says. "I liked the script, but I know nothing about law. So I chose to play the aspect of Kathleen's character that I knew, that I could relate to. Then the legal terms and language fell into place. I used them as if I'd been using them all my life."

"I went to a murder trial in Washington to do research," she says. "A man killed four of his roommates and I met the two women handling the case. They knew they didn't have a chance but they busted their asses. I never seen people work that hard. The job took up their lives. They were an inspiration to me."

Cher insisted on removing the film's only love scene opposite Dennis Quaid, who plays a Washington lobbyist called to jury duty.

"I felt it was inappropriate," she says. "It didn't seem right that you spent all this time

establishing Riley as an independent woman, then she falls for the first man that comes along."

Cher knows about working hard to make it. She did a lot of that when, at 30, she decided, after a career as a singer on CBS-TV's "The Sonny and Cher Show" opposite then-husband Sonny Bono, to become a serious actress.

"I wish it hadn't taken so long," she says. "I got my first job at 35. I didn't work for two years after *Mask*. I'm pretty picky."

It should have been easier. Cher had just come off a hit show that had been seen around the world, but as an actress she could not get an agent.

"No one would give me an audition or a screen test," she says. "They told me people would never accept a person with one name as an actress. They told me people wouldn't stop believing for a moment that I was the character Cher."

Adult

Cher would be the first to admit that she didn't make it easy for people in the industry. She presented an Oscar at the 1984 Academy Award ceremony clad in a scanty costume made of black feathers, and was photographed at rock clubs with a different date in tow every week. Real actresses look like Meryl Streep and deserve dignity, don't they?

"They tell me I'm trying to look like Madonna," she says, laughing. "I was wearing my old leather jacket when she was still in leather diapers!"

"I could have changed and looked serious a long time ago and maybe gotten someone to take notice. But I wanted to do it the way I wanted. There



If there was any doubt that Cher was a top notch actress, she has dispelled it with her portrayal as Kathleen Riley in the romantic thriller *Suspect*.

When Robert Redford is playing love scenes with Daryl Hannah, we're in trouble," she says. "How young do you have to be and who do people like me play opposite? It doesn't matter how old a man is and how young the woman is, but try it the other way around."

Cher does. Rob Camilletti, a 23-year-old former New York bartender is her latest boyfriend. She says she goes out with younger men because they ask her, older men find her intimidating.

"They think I'm too wild for them, or at least my image is too wild," she says. "They never ask me out and I would never ask them. The more I like them the less likely I'd be to speak to them, so that leaves younger men. They're more supportive as lovers and less demanding. They don't try to control you."

Cher's determination to succeed has given her the courage to return to singing. She began a two-week cross-country tour Oct 19 to promote her new album "Cher."

"I didn't want to do it. I never liked my singing," she says, "which is not to say I don't like to sing because I have a great time singing."

But Cher doesn't intend to be pigeon-holed again as just a singer or an actress.

"That kind of thinking screwed up my life for a long time," she says.

Cher's latest movie, "Moonstruck," which opens just before Christmas, features her as a lonely widow in an Italian family in Brooklyn whose hope and liveliness are restored by a passionate entanglement with a baker (Nicholas Cage).

"I love that movie," she says. "If nobody went to see it I wouldn't care. I'm satisfied with it. Mind you, you shouldn't be satisfied with a film. Satisfied is what you should be when you clean out your closets. It's not what you should be when you do a piece of art."

And that, folks, is vintage Cher.

Basinger hits it off with Nadine

By Ivor Davis

"WHEN I was a kid at school," says Kim Basinger, "my teachers asked me to stand up and tell them what I wanted to be when I grew up."

"I said I was going to be the biggest star — the best actress in the world," she says, flashing a smile. "And everyone laughed."

Today no one is laughing. At 33, the former fashion model who in a few short years has starred opposite some of Hollywood's top actors — Burt Reynolds, Robert Redford, Charlton Heston, Sean Connery, Mickey Rourke, Sam Shepard, Bruce Willis, Richard Gere — has finally hit it big. She plays a sexy, savvy Texan in the title role of Oscar-winning writer/director Robert Benton's delightful comedy *caper* *Nadine*.

"Kim Basinger emerges from this film like a brainy Marilyn Monroe," said one reviewer. Noted another: "The kind of movie that Hollywood used to live by... Kim Basinger plays Nadine with a blend of fire and humour — it's the performance of a star."

It is a performance long overdue and one that may earn Basinger an Oscar nomination. The film is set in dusty, dreary Austin, Texas, in 1954. Nadine Hightower dreams of better days as she toils in the Alamo Beauty Parlour, barely scraping out a \$20-a-week living as a manicurist. Estranged husband Vernon Hightower (Jeff Bridges) dreams of new ways to keep his bar from going bankrupt. The fun begins when Nadine witnesses a murder and enlists Vernon to help her recover some "art" pictures the deceased had taken of her that she wants back.

The picture works because of the funny, taut script, the near-perfect performances, especially from Basinger, and the direction of Benton, who also made *Kramer vs Kramer* (1979) and *Places in the Heart*.

(1984).

"When I began writing the story," says Benton, "I posted a picture of Jeff Bridges above my typewriter. I didn't have a picture of Kim Basinger, but from the moment we met for the audition I swear there was no one else who could do this. There's a huge part of Nadine that is real. Kim Basinger. The only other time that happened was when I was casting 'Kramer' and Meryl Streep walked in the door. Dustin Hoffman and I looked at each other and said, 'This is Joanna Kramer!'"

Even Basinger felt the chemistry was right.

"When I first met Benton I didn't know if this man was for real — so kind and forthright."

Since the Georgia-bred Basinger switched from the



Kim Basinger stars in the title role in *Nadine*, comedy from Robert Benton.

highly paid field of Manhattan modelling to the big screen she has struggled to find the right part, although there has been no shortage of roles.

After five years as a cover girl she drove cross-country to Los Angeles and quickly landed the lead in the TV movie *Centerville* (1978) and in the miniseries *From Here to Eternity* (1979).

Her first film was *Hard Country* (1981) opposite Ian-Michael Vincent, which was followed by *Madame X* (1982) with Charlton Heston. Her dazzling beauty was spectacularly displayed as Sean Connery's lady in *Never Say Never Again* (1983); as the wealthy Houstonian nymphomaniac in *The Man Who Loved Women* (1983) with Burt Reynolds; as the temptress opposite Robert Redford in *The Natural* (1984); as Mickey Rourke's obsessive sexual partner in the controversial *9½ Weeks* (1986); and as Bruce Willis' boozy dinner partner in the comedy *Blind Date* (1987).

Basinger says she was disappointed with the reaction to *9½ Weeks* in the United States, although the movie became a hit around the world. She still receives letters from women who admired the story's nonsense approach to female sexuality.

Problems

The movie ran into censor problems in the United States because of her sizzling love scenes with Rourke. Before the movie could be released it had to be re-edited and some footage deleted. The reviews were scathing and the picture did poorly in the United States, although it has had a healthy life on the video circuit.

"It left me a wreck, emotionally and physically," says Basinger. "During shooting, we had our days of ego problems and ups and downs. But no one ever saw the real movie. There are four or five pirated versions. I have eight hours — I hear there are 12 hours."

Shooting *Nadine* couldn't have been more different, she says.

Richard Vuu as Pu Yi, toddler out to greet his massed army of servants in the Forbidden City.

First Western film made in China since the revolution

By Richard Lormand

NEW YORK, (Reuter): Italian director Bernardo Bertolucci, who created a sensation with *Last Tango in Paris* in 1972, has returned to the spotlight with *The Last Emperor*.

Bertolucci's first film in six years, this epic treatment of modern China has been cited by virtually every US critic as one of the year's best.

"There are two great loves in this movie — one for cinema and one for China," the 47-year-old director said.

"The Last Emperor" chronicles the life of Pu Yi, who ascended to the throne in Imperial China in 1908 aged three, and died 59 years later, a humble gardener.

Made in English, it is the first Western feature film about China made in the country itself since the Communist revolution in 1949. And it is the first film ever shot in Peking's Forbidden City, the ancient home of Pu Yi and other Chinese rulers.

"The Last Emperor" is an epic on the grandest scale, with some 19,000 Chinese extras and 9,000 costumes.

Bringing Pu Yi's autobiography, "From Emperor To Citizen", to the screen took over four years, \$25 million and a crew of Italian, British and Chinese technicians.

As the child emperor of the Manchu dynasty, Pu Yi lived among concubines and eunuchs inside the Forbidden City until he was deposed in 1911, when the Nationalists took over.

The adult Pu Yi lived the decadent life of a playboy and served as a puppet emperor for the Japanese in Manchuria in the late 1930s. He was sent to a Chinese prison in 1945 as the Japanese empire crumbled at the end of World War Two.

After nine years, he was "remoulded" by the communists and worked as a gardener until his death in 1967.

Chinese-American John Lone, who starred in *Year Of The Dragon*, portrays Pu Yi from adolescence to his death. Peter O'Toole plays Pu Yi's Scottish tutor and Chinese actress Joan Chen portrays the

Bertolucci returns to glory

Richard Vuu as Pu Yi, toddler out to greet his massed army of servants in the Forbidden City.

The screenplay had to be approved by China's culture ministry. The Chinese considered Pu Yi's story a morality tale, with the hero becoming freer as an ordinary citizen.

Bertolucci said the Chinese government also gave its nod of approval to the completed film after special showings, but theatrical release in China itself is undecided.

Release there, he said, would be deeply satisfying.

Bertolucci's 1980, the 1977 four-hour Italian epic starring Robert De Niro, and 1979's *Lama*, an erotic mother-and-son story starring Jill Clayburgh, were box-office disappointments.

These were followed by the unsuccessful *Tragedy of a Ridiculous Man* in 1981.

The lukewarm reception to those three films forced Bertolucci to look toward the east.

"I was so frustrated," he said. "I wanted to go faraway."

Bertolucci believes he was allowed to film *The Last Emperor* in China because of his permission to film it.

the social and political liberalisation under Deng Xiaoping.

Bertolucci thinks there is not the capacity for change in his native Italy — which last February finally lifted its 11-year ban on *Last Tango*, a frank portrayal of a relationship between a middle-aged man and a young woman.

That rigidity, he said, has hurt Italian cinema.

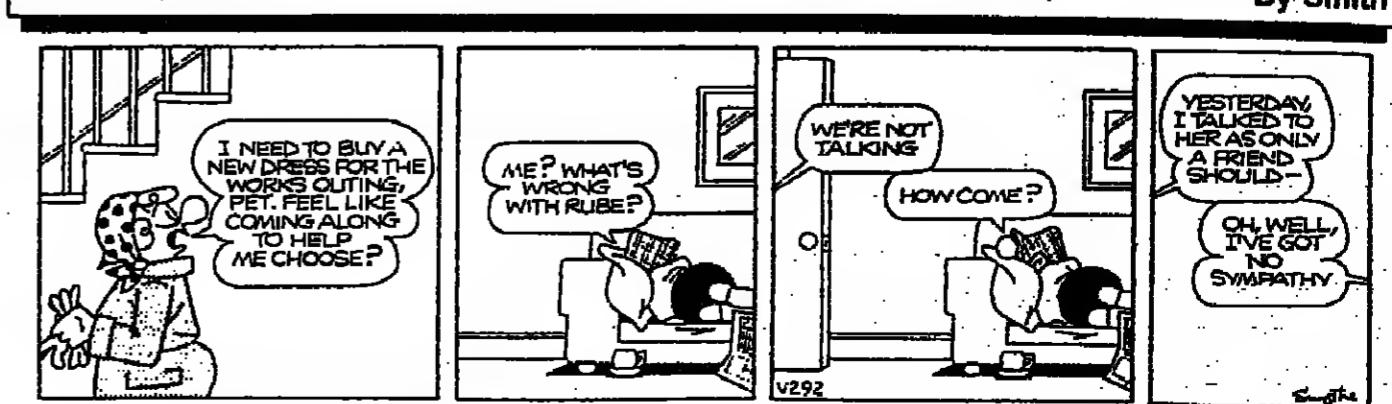
"Italian cinema is in a kind of agony. It lasted so long that it has become normal. There is agony, but no death."

For his next film, Bertolucci is considering adaptations of Paul Bowles' novel, "The Sheltering Sky," the story of an American expatriate in Morocco after World War Two, and Andre Malraux's "Man's Fate."

Malraux's 1933 novel, set during the 1927 Shanghai uprising, was his first choice before *The Last Emperor*. The subject matter, however, touched too many political sores and the Chinese wouldn't give him permission to film it.

By Smith

ANDY CAPP



حکایات الظل

FAMILY DOCTOR

By DR ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

QUESTION: I'm a big fan of high school football. (My son's the quarterback.) I think the doctors throw kids out of the game too quickly. What you think? Are there any medical association rules involved in these decisions?

ANSWER: While there is no set of rules, there is a set of guidelines that will help keep your son and his teammates out of serious danger when they are injured on the field. In any contact sport, particularly football, there is a potential for significant injury. Many of the usual injuries are orthopedic in nature, but there is also a real risk of serious injuries to the larynx, abdomen, eyes and teeth. The doctors who monitor games must be fully trained in field-side medicine and have the ultimate responsibility for the welfare of the athletes. A player should be eliminated from competition for the day if any of the following things happen:

1. Unconsciousness, no matter how short a period of time.
2. Head trauma that results in more than 10 seconds of dazed or inappropriate responses.
3. Any complaint of numbness or tin-

1988 TRIBUNE MEDIA SERVICES

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Aides give the proposals little chance of winning approval

Reagan will ask Congress to reform budget process

WASHINGTON, Jan 26, (Reuter): President Reagan says he will once again ask Congress to reform the nation's lengthy annual budget process, but even his own aides give the proposals little chance of winning approval.

The Democratic Party-controlled Congress has turned down the reforms repeatedly in the past and 1988 is an election year — the Republican Reagan's last as President after serving the legal maximum of two four-year terms.

Outlined

Two of the proposals Reagan outlined in the annual State of the Union Speech last night would shift the balance of power on spending decisions to the White House from Congress.

A third would force massive spending cuts that would pose major political problems for law-

makers seeking re-election. In addition to the presidency being up for grabs in November, one-third of the 100 Senate seats and all of the 435 seats in the House of Representatives will be contested.

The budget process has become increasingly bitter in recent years as Reagan has blamed Congress for excessive spending and congressional leaders have faulted the White House for preparing politically unworkable budget plans.

The non-stop sniping has slowed the process to a crawl.

Last year, for example, the budget for the fiscal year that began on October 1 was not in place until late December. As the wrangling went on, the dollar, already hit by a stubbornly high US trade deficit, came under further pressure on foreign exchange markets.

He also proposed changing

This year, administration officials have predicted the budget process will be less contentious because the White House and congressional leaders have already agreed on the basic outlines of the coming year's federal budget.

A White House-Congress budget summit at calming financial markets after the October 19 Wall Street crash, called for a \$76 billion budget deficit cut over two years. But election year passions could still derail that accord and restore the usual chaos to the 1988 budgetary bargaining.

In his message to Congress, Reagan asked legislators to alter the US constitution to require a balanced federal budget and to give him the power to block individual items in lengthy spending bills.

The change would be important because the budget resolu-

tion establishes an overall ceiling for government spending bills and also allocates the spending among the various congressional committees that make the myriad individual spending decisions.

Presidential authority to block individual items in spending bills, called a 'line-item veto,' would also be a significant change, shifting the final say over most budget matters to the White House from Capitol Hill.

At present the President has a choice only between approving the entire contents of a lengthy spending bill approved by Congress, or vetoing the entire measure.

Although proposed repeatedly by Reagan, the line-item veto has also never come to a vote in Congress during his presidency.

A constitutional amendment

to balance the budget has made it to the voting stage, but neither chamber has approved such an amendment during the Reagan years.

While the goal of a balanced federal budget is publicly praised by many in Congress, few lawmakers would jump for the chance actually to balance the budget any time soon.

Considerably

Though the Federal Budget deficit has fallen considerably from its \$21 billion peak in fiscal 1986, it remains in the region of \$15 billion, and lawmakers envisioning spending cuts of that magnitude would rightly fear for their re-election this year.

Even President Reagan, whose promise of a balanced budget was central to his 1980 presidential campaign, has never actually submitted a balanced budget plan to Congress.

World Business Summary

Shipping losses down

LONDON, Jan 26, (Reuter): Fewer ships were lost last year than in 1986 but the gain was overshadowed by the Gulf war and ferry disasters off Belgium and the Philippines when hundreds of people died, an underwriters' association said today. The report by the Institute of London Underwriters (ILU) said losses in 1987 dropped to 139 merchant ships totalling 1,178,900 gross tons against 156 ships totalling 1,207,422 tons the previous year. This, however, was in a year which saw the world's worst peacetime shipping disaster — the sinking of the Manila-bound ferry Dona Paz last month.

There were only 26 survivors from 1,600 people known to be aboard after the ship caught fire. The ILU said the vessel could have been carrying twice that number. It also cited nearly 200 deaths when the British Ferry Herald of Free Enterprise sank off Zeebrugge, Belgium last March.

The ILU said there were 170 attacks on ships in the Gulf, up 50 per cent on 1986. But naval escorts had limited the extent of the damage caused. Aviation meanwhile had its second-worst year on record in terms of cash losses, the ILU said. In 1987, 20 Western-built jet airliners valued at \$258 million were lost in accidents. A death toll at 392 compared with as many as 1,534 deaths in 1985, when there were record aviation cash losses of \$400 million. The ILU represents British and overseas insurance companies accounting for about half of London's shipping business.

Egypt willing to cut oil output

CAIRO, Jan 26, (Reuter): Egypt is willing to cut its crude oil production from the current level to help Opec stabilise the volatile world market, Petroleum Minister Abdel-Hadi Kandeel said today. In a statement released by his office, Kandeel said if all members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) held to their present production ceiling, prices would rise to an average of \$18 a barrel. Egypt is completely ready to further squeeze its output, when it deems this necessary . . . apart from what is needed for domestic consumption, which is rising now because of a two-month-old cold wave," the minister said. Opec agreed in December on total output of 15.06 million barrels per day (bpd) for all members except Iraq. Kandeel said that to shore up prices, Egypt would not bring more supplies into the world market than it already does. Non-Opec Egypt cut production by 30,000 bpd early last year to help the 13-member oil group and now exports about one-third of its output of 870,000 bpd.

Oman to boost gas exploration

MUSCAT, Oman, Jan 26, (AP): Oman, a non-Opec oil producer faced with a 194 million-rial (\$500 million) budget deficit for fiscal 1988, is to step up efforts to develop its state-owned gas industry to save fuel oil, government sources said today.

Six million riyals (\$15 million) will be spent developing three gas production plants this year, said the sources who spoke on condition of anonymity. A 275,000-rial (\$710,000) government study to be carried out over the next five months will review technical and organisational options. The gas network powers defence installations in addition to oil production and light industry, the sources noted. The government announced earlier this month that gas reserves have risen to 9.6 trillion cubic feet, an increase of three trillion cubic feet over figures announced a year ago.

Gas consumption totalled 50 billion cubic feet last year. Oman, which produces 565,000 barrels of oil a day, launched a gas exploration programme in 1984 when oil prices were falling.

Banks grapple with Latin American debt problem

Bahrain's offshore banks to boost reserves

BAHRAYN, Jan 26, (Reuter): Bahrain's major banks, amongst the biggest in the Gulf, will take decisions this week to boost their reserves against bad debts to cope with the burden posed by \$3 billion worth of Latin American loans.

But bankers said their debt provisions are unlikely to match reserve levels set by European and US competitors.

A controversial home-spun proposal to hive off problem loans into a holding company looks set to be shelved and banks are expected to concentrate instead on boosting reserves as far as possible from relatively weak operating earnings.

Muddle

"Bahrain's banks are under- provided; but they can do little about it and will have to muddle through," one banker said.

The island's 65 offshore banks cut their teeth on a diet of Latin American lending during heady expansion in the late 1970s, but problems coincided

with a Middle East recession, robbing them of the chance to sail away provisions.

The coming week sees a series of board meetings in Bahrain as bank executives and shareholders, often Gulf governments, decide just how to handle provisions in the 1987 balance sheet.

Bankers said a lead by US

Arab Banking Corp (ABC), is estimated to have outstanding loans to the region of \$1.2 billion, equal to 20 per cent of its debt portfolio.

Its arch rival Gulf International Bank (GIB) has Latin American exposure of \$864 million or about 70 per cent.

Bankers said a lead by US

US durable goods orders jump 6.7pc

WASHINGTON, Jan 26, (Reuter): Orders received by manufacturers of durable goods surged by 6.7 per cent in December, the Commerce Department said today.

The large increase, which far

surpassed expectations of a 0.2 per cent gain, largely reflected orders for aircraft, government officials said.

For 1987 as a whole, durable goods orders rose 7.8 per cent after increasing by 0.5 per cent in 1986.

The 6.7 per cent increase to a seasonally adjusted \$118.69 billion was the fourth consecutive monthly increase and the largest since a 6.9 per cent rise in September 1986.

It followed a modest 0.1 per cent increase in November.

The 7.8 per cent increase last year in orders for durable goods, which are designed to last three years or more, was the biggest since a 13.0 per cent rise in 1984.

Although aircraft orders, a

volatile category, accounted for more than two-thirds of December's rise, the Commerce Department said new order increases were widespread within major industries.

Excluding another unpredictable category, defence equipment, orders were up 6.0 per cent last month after rising 0.2 per cent in November.

The strength in durable goods orders was further evidence that the overall economy did not slow down much in the weeks after October's stock market crash and that the manufacturing sector in particular ended the year with business booming.

Economists say manufacturers are finally reaping the benefits of a three-year-long decline in the dollar which has made their goods more competitive on world markets.

Growth in exports is thought to have fuelled another quarter of strong economic growth between October and December.

4th Floor Seminar Rooms

3rd Floor Personnel Training & Development

2nd Floor Processing

1st Floor Processing

Mezzanine II Test Area

Mezzanine I Commercial Operations / Letters of Credit Letters of Guarantee Bills and Loans

Ground Floor Main Branch - Customers and Cash Services Foreign Transfers

AlAhli Bank of Kuwait has great pleasure in announcing the transfer of its Head-Office to new premises at Safat Square.

We shall be delighted to welcome all our valued customers at our new premises effective Saturday, January 30th, 1988.

Our present Head-Office at Mubarakiya will serve as a new Branch under the name of 'Mubarakiya Branch', where a complete range of banking services will be available for your convenience.

البنك الاهلي الكويتي (ش.م.م)
ALAHILI BANK OF KUWAIT (KSC)



WORLD STOCK MARKETS

ARAB TIMES, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 1988

LONDON

LONDON

(LONDON STOCKS)

NAME	LAST	STG	070/0	NAME	CLOSE	OPEN	LAST	STG	070/0
ABBEY LFE	263/0	LASTO	310/0	A.B. ELECT	341/0	340/0	BUCKLEYS	189/0	190/0
ALD LYONS	341/0	LEGAL+GEN	278/0	APV PLC	127/0	128/0	BULMER HP	154/0	155/0
ANSTRAD	139/0	LLODYS BK	258/0	AARSON	115/0	116/0	BUHLER DIS	89/0	88/0
ARYLL GP	193/0	LONRHO	253/0	AAH HDLG	303/0	302/0	U-HOBSON	42/0	42/0
ASDA MFI	170/0	LUCAS IND	593/0	ADDISON G	91/0	91/0	CALEDONIA	332/0	330/0
A B FOODS	310/0	MAGNET	213/0	ADWEST GP	285/0	286/0	CAFE INST	52/0	51/0
BAA PP	108/0	MARKS+SP	184/0	AILSA	143/0	145/0	CANNING W	176/0	177/0
BTR	268/0	METAL BOX	185/0	CATER ALL	348/0	345/0	CAP. RADIO	189/0	190/0
BAT INDs	433/0	MPC	458/0	ALEX WRKU	165/0	163/0	CAFE INST	92/0	94/0
BARCLAYS	495/0	MIDLAND BK	405/4	ALLD COLL	121/0	121/0	CHARTER A	30/0	30/0
BASS	800/0	NEXT	279/0	AMARIT	149/0	151/0	CHLORIDE	60/0	62/0
BEAZER	190/0	NTH FOODS	265/0	APPLEYARD	345/0	348/0	CHRISITES	487/0	490/0
BEECHAMS	463/0	P & O DFB	545/0	CASE GP	54/0	53/0	CHAS. CHUR	115/0	116/0
BET ORD	242/0	PEARL		COLLINS A	590/0	590/0	CHRS. KONG	144/0	145/0
BTC PLC	338/0	PEARSON	720/0	ANGLIA TV	399/0	398/0	CHRS. KONG	144/0	145/0
BLUE ARMY	98/0	PILKINGTON	233/0	ANSBACHER	67/0	68/0	CLIFFE PET	122/0	123/0
BLUE CIRC	432/0	PLESSEY	152/0	COALITE	333/0	333/0	COALITE	333/0	333/0
BOC GP	395/0	PRUDENTIAL	653/0	COATES BR	370/0	373/0	COLWELL	175/0	176/0
BOOTS CO	248/0	RACAL	215/0	CASE GP	54/0	53/0	COM. IND	355/0	360/0
BPP INDs	262/0	RANK HVIS	327/0	COLLINS A	590/0	590/0	CARLESS C	109/0	109/0
BR COMM	330/0	RANK O&G	598/0	COLLINS A	450/0	450/0	CARLTON C	663/0	665/0
BR AIRWAY	166/0	RCKLT+CO	805/0	COLTROL	210/0	212/0	CATER ALL	348/0	345/0
BR AEROSP	363/0	REDLAND	433/0	COLTROL	121/0	121/0	CATER ALL	348/0	345/0
BR GAS PP	135/0	REED	405/0	COM. IND	355/0	360/0	CHARTER A	30/0	30/0
B.P.	257/0	AUTO SEC	237/0	COATES BR	370/0	373/0	CHARTER A	30/0	30/0
B.P. NEW	75/0	RYL BK SC	343/0	COATES BR	370/0	373/0	CHARTER A	30/0	30/0
BR TELCOM	232/4	AVON RUBB	629/0	COATES BR	370/0	373/0	CHARTER A	30/0	30/0
BRITOL	468/0	RTZ CORP	350/0	COATES BR	370/0	373/0	CHARTER A	30/0	30/0
BUNZL	165/0	RTZ CORP	350/0	COATES BR	370/0	373/0	CHARTER A	30/0	30/0
BURMAH OL	487/0	ROELFS ROY	594/4	COATES BR	370/0	373/0	CHARTER A	30/0	30/0
BURTON	236/6	ROTHMAN B	129/0	COATES BR	370/0	373/0	CHARTER A	30/0	30/0
CABLE&WIR	344/0	ROYAL INS	415/0	COATES BR	370/0	373/0	CHARTER A	30/0	30/0
CADBURYS	256/0	SAATCHI	430/0	COATES BR	370/0	373/0	CHARTER A	30/0	30/0
COATS VIT	270/0	SAINTSBURY	226/0	COATES BR	370/0	373/0	CHARTER A	30/0	30/0
COMM UNI	340/0	SCOT+NEW	212/0	COATES BR	370/0	373/0	CHARTER A	30/0	30/0
CONS GOLD	795/0	SEARS	151/0	COATES BR	370/0	373/0	CHARTER A	30/0	30/0
COOKSONS	540/0	SEDEGWICK	225/0	COATES BR	370/0	373/0	CHARTER A	30/0	30/0
COURTAULD	323/0	SELL	021/4	COATES BR	370/0	373/0	CHARTER A	30/0	30/0
DALGETY	306/0	SMITH+NEPH	145/0	COATES BR	370/0	373/0	CHARTER A	30/0	30/0
DEE CP	202/0	STD. CHART	545/0	COATES BR	370/0	373/0	CHARTER A	30/0	30/0
DIXONS	198/0	STC	239/0	COATES BR	370/0	373/0	CHARTER A	30/0	30/0
ENG CHINA	390/0	STORENRE	250/0	COATES BR	370/0	373/0	CHARTER A	30/0	30/0
ENTER OIL	280/0	SUN ALLIA	833/0	COATES BR	370/0	373/0	CHARTER A	30/0	30/0
FERRANTI	86/0	TARMAC	225/0	COATES BR	370/0	373/0	CHARTER A	30/0	30/0
FISONS	259/4	TATE+LEW	709/0	COATES BR	370/0	373/0	CHARTER A	30/0	30/0
GEM ACCID	843/0	TESCO	158/0	COATES BR	370/0	373/0	CHARTER A	30/0	30/0
GEM ELEC	158/0	THORN EMI	565/0	COATES BR	370/0	373/0	CHARTER A	30/0	30/0
GLAXO	020/0	TRAN HSE	342/0	COATES BR	370/0	373/0	CHARTER A	30/0	30/0
GRANADA	319/0	TSB	114/0	COATES BR	370/0	373/0	CHARTER A	30/0	30/0
GLOBE	137/0	T + N	185/0	COATES BR	370/0	373/0	CHARTER A	30/0	30/0
GRAND MET	445/4	TRUSTHRS	226/0	COATES BR	370/0	373/0	CHARTER A	30/0	30/0
GUS A	105/0	ULTRAMAR	218/0	COATES BR	370/0	373/0	CHARTER A	30/0	30/0
GUARD RYL	860/0	UNILEVER	488/0	COATES BR	370/0	373/0	CHARTER A	30/0	30/0
GKN	515/0	UNIGATE	293/0	COATES BR	370/0	373/0	CHARTER A	30/0	30/0
GUINNESS	287/2	UTD BISC	271/0	COATES BR	370/0	373/0	CHARTER A	30/0	30/0
HIMMERS A	540/0	UTD NUSPR	438/0	COATES BR	370/0	373/0	CHARTER A	30/0	30/0
HANSOM	153/0	WELLCOME	596/0	COATES BR	370/0	373/0	CHARTER A	30/0	30/0
HAKER SID	471/0	WHITEBIRD	287/0	COATES BR	370/0	373/0	CHARTER A	30/0	30/0
HAMLEY	100/0	WILLIS FB	243/0	COATES BR	370/0	373/0	CHARTER A	30/0	30/0
HILLSDOWN	299/0	Woolworth	268/0	COATES BR	370/0	373/0	CHARTER A	30/0	30/0

World Indices

INDEX	LATEST	1/PREV-DAYS/2	PREV-OR	PREV-YR
FT 30 QRD	1418.0	1414.0	1421.0	1373.3
FT 500 SHR	0	991.8	982.9	957.6
FT ALL SHR	0	901.57	905.54	870.22
FT GOV SEC	0	89.39	88.69	88.49
FT GOLD MN	0	279.1	279.9	302.1
FT MINES F	0	422.57	432.89	450.65
FT OIL	0	1750.5	1757.5	1663.6
FT WLD DLR	116.46	114.13	113.37	115.04
FT WLD STG	97.44	94.93	93.56	90.79
FT WLD LOC	103.51	101.39	100.38	99.08

London Stock Market Report

U.K. SHARES BELOW HIGHS IN QUIET LATE TRADING									
LONDON, JAN 26 - SHARES WERE FIRMER BUT STOOD BELOW THEIR BEST LEVELS OF THE DAY IN SLOWED LATE TRADING AFTER WALL STREET SHOWED AN EARLY 10-POINT FALL, DEALERS SAID.									
STOCKS HAD REACHED THEIR HIGHS AROUND MIDSESSION AFTER THE LATEST CONFEDERATION OF BRITISH INDUSTRY (CBI) QUARTERLY SURVEY CAME OUT WITH A LESS GLOOMY PICTURE OF THE U									

Pope urges governments to cut military spending

ROME, Jan 26. (Reuter): Pope John Paul called today for an end to excessive military spending and said nuclear disarmament would be meaningless unless the money freed went to helping the world's poorest.

In a speech marking 10 years of work by the United Nations International Fund for Agricultural Development (Ifad), the Pope welcomed last month's US-Soviet nuclear arms treaty and said he hoped it would lead to more radical disarmament.

"But all of this will have no meaning if we do not reach a larger degree of economic cooperation benefitting the most disadvantaged regions of the world," he told Ifad's 142-nation governing council.

Resources

He urged nations to "dare to renounce excessive military expenditures" so as to devote maximum resources to international cooperation and to collaborate in the work of "giving to peace the name of development".

Praising Ifad's work, he said an effective solution to hunger could not be found by food aid but only by giving the poor the means to help fight starvation themselves.

Development efforts had to place respect for universal human dignity above the pursuit of profit or any hegemonic temptation," he said.

The Pope's remarks reflected wide support for the Rome-based agency including from Western critics of other UN agencies, in its provision of grants and loans for small-scale, self-help projects among the most disadvantaged of the world's rural poor.

In the past 10 years Ifad has lent \$2.4 billion to 89 developing countries for projects it says have benefited 110 million people.

The grants and loans, most on highly concessionary terms, have been matched by a further \$7.5 billion from co-financiers and voluntary contributions from beneficiary countries, Ifad says.

Gulf invests \$38b in industrial sector

DOHA, Jan 26. (Opecna): The Gulf region witnessed a substantial industrial growth over the past two decades, with the establishment of thousands of projects, ranging from petrochemicals and steel to food industries.

According to a study prepared by the Doha-based Gulf Organisation for Industrial Consulting (Goic) — grouping five Opec countries, Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, and non-Opec Bahrain and Oman — about 4,900 projects have been carried out with total investments of more than \$38 billion.

The report said that continuing growth of the industrial sector in the Gulf countries in future would hinge substantially on the ability to define the industries which would be able to achieve the diversification of income.

The study warned that the inability to utilise available production capacities, the shrinking revenues and profits of existing industries and the drop in the industrial growth rate would all lead to curbing diversification of national income.

The report showed that increasing numbers of intermediate industries were facing the problem of inability to utilise available production capacity.

Projects

Despite the fact that some existing industrial projects in the Gulf countries were utilising their available production capacity, the failure to use all available production capacities have been growing dramatically, the study said.

Dollar gains and gold drops again

LONDON, Jan 26. (AP): The US dollar strengthened against the major currencies in European trading today. Gold prices fell for the third straight session.

Foreign exchange dealers said the dollar was helped by better-than-expected figures for US durable goods orders, which were up 6.7 per cent last month against an expected rise of less than 1 per cent.

Impact

But the dealers said the improvement wouldn't have much impact after today as the indicator was not important enough. They said the large US trade deficit would have to show a substantial fall before the dollar could rise considerably above its current low levels.

In London, one British pound cost \$1.7675 today, cheaper for buyers than Monday's late 1.7735.

Other late rates in Europe compared with late Monday:

— 1.6775 West German marks, unchanged
— 1.3600 Swiss francs, up from 1.3595
— 6.6575 French francs, up from 5.6495
— 1.8845 Dutch guilders, up from 1.8825
— 1.2325 Italian lire, up from 1.230.37
— 1.2070 Canadian dollars, up from 1.2797

President Reagan's State of the Union message failed to lift sluggish world money markets because he came up with no new initiative to correct huge US trade and budget deficits, dealers reported.

"People would have thought at this stage he would have said something more constructive for the dollar," said Mark Brett, economist with stockbrokers Barclays De Zoete Wedd in London.

In stock markets, Tokyo ended higher following a 43-point advance on Wall Street yesterday.

terday and most European shares were also slightly up. But dealers said trading was hesitant and the volume of business was often thin.

Subdued

British currency dealers said dollar trading was subdued with investors now waiting for news due on Wednesday of the rate at which US Gross National Product expanded in the last three months of 1987 — an important indicator of how America's economy performed after the Black Monday October 19 crash.

"There's been a wild flurry on every GNP figure (in 1987)," Britain's Barclays De Zoete said, noting that actual figures on previous occasions had differed widely from market expectations.

The median market forecast for real GNP growth in the fourth quarter is a rise of 3.5 per cent, against third quarter growth of 4.3 per cent.

Markets will scrutinise the numbers for any sign that the effects of the October stock market crash are working their way through into economic performance analysis said.

London dealers said a lower-than-expected figure could hit the dollar and raise the spectre of US higher interest rates.

One said: "The market's showing a reluctance to make any headway at the moment and I don't think you'll see much change in prices ahead of the US fourth quarter GNP figures."

London's blue-chip share barometer, the FTSE 100-share index, ended at 1767.3 points, just 5.1 points higher than yesterday close.

In early Frankfurt business, leading West German shares firms then eased as investors sold to take profits. "As soon as price rises a little bit, foreigners cash in," one Frankfurt broker said. "Turnover is extremely small," said another.

Arabs may help Egypt over US military debt

BAHRAIN, Jan 26. (Reuter): Gulf Arab states may step in to help Egypt if President Hosni Mubarak fails to persuade the United States this week to write off some of Cairo's military debts, bankers said today.

They said several of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states, which Mubarak visited this month, were studying the possibility of buying part of the debt from Washington and rescheduling it at lower interest rates.

Switched

Egypt owes \$4.5 billion to the United States for arms bought after the late President Anwar Sadat switched allegiance from the Soviet camp to the West in the mid-1970s.

The debt carries an average interest rate of 11.8 per cent, with portions of it as high as 16 per cent. Egyptian officials argue it would be cut as interest rates have dropped sharply in recent years.

Sources close to Mubarak said the president, who arrives in Washington this week as part of a tour of his Western allies, would press the Reagan administration to absolve Egypt of at least some of the debt.

Role

They said he would argue Egypt played a strategic political and military role and its stability, vital to US interests in the Middle East, could be undermined if

debts continued to weaken its economy and fed social unrest.

Mubarak visited the six GCC states — Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates — at the beginning of January on a tour marking Egypt's new-found respectability in the Arab world.

The bankers said the Gulf Arabs were considering buying part of the military debt at a discount through regional development funds. It would then be rescheduled at what one banker described as "a more reasonable rate which Cairo could meet."

Egypt has repeatedly defaulted on the debt and last year rescheduled about \$800 million in arrears in a deal delaying payment until June.

Unable

Some bankers said they thought Egypt might even be unable to meet easier repayment terms if Gulf financial groups set a market-related interest rate near the eight per cent level.

But diplomats argued that Cairo could always make repayments in the form of military and other goods which would find a more natural market in the Gulf than in the Western world.

Egypt has a well-developed arms industry and plans to help to boost Kuwait's air defence system, train Gulf Arab officers

and hold arms exhibitions to boost sales.

Sources travelling with Mubarak said he would tell US leaders Cairo could not immediately implement more economic reforms advocated by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) while continuing to play a political and military role in the region.

Agreed

Egypt and the IMF agreed in 1987 on several economic reforms in return for emergency funds in a deal which enabled Cairo to reschedule part of its non-military debt to Western governments.

Egypt, with total foreign debts of more than \$40 billion, has so far rescheduled about \$4.3 billion worth of debts with five governments and Egyptian negotiators are now talking to the Scandinavian countries and Britain.

But, in addition to Cairo's decision last May to devalue its exchange rate from 1.35 Egyptian pounds to the dollar to about 2.20 pounds, the IMF wants Cairo to increase electricity prices and raise interest rates.

Bankers said the Egyptian government was reluctant to impose the full IMF prescription. Past attempts to lift subsidies or increase prices led to riots which forced the government to back down.

Shell changes gasoline formula

AMSTERDAM, Jan 26. (Reuter): The Royal Dutch/Shell group said today it is withdrawing a heavily promoted blend of petrol sold in 30 countries because it damaged some car engines.

A spokesman of Shell Nederland said the company would remove an additive to its premium leaded gasoline which of a major securities company.

He

He added that most Japanese firms are getting used to export less and depend on home consumption, selling their products in Japan more than to other countries, in addition to importing necessary and consumable commodities.

But research had now suggested that a secret chemical in the additive, called a 'spark-aid', was responsible for burnt inlet valves experienced under Arctic conditions in some engines in Norway and Denmark in the winter of 1986.

Conditions

The spokesman added that it was hard to say under what conditions the blend, promoted in some countries as 'Formula Shell', had damaged engines. Problems were also experienced in the tropical heat of Malaysia.

Shell had therefore decided to remove the additive from its premium gasoline worldwide.

Shell unleaded premium and regular and leaded regular had no problems and would continue to have the spark-aiding chemical.

Treasury bills given at average 4.268 pc

KUWAIT'S fourth three-month Treasury bill issue of KD120 million was allotted at an average price of 98.936 for an average yield of 4.268 percent.

The Kuwait news agency Kuna quoted Central Bank Governor Sheikha Salma Abdulla Al Sabah as saying bids totalling KD163 million were received at prices ranging from 99.043 to 98.647.

The bills, dated Wednesday, are part of a scheme launched in November to finance Kuwait's state budget deficit.

An KD80 million issue of one-year bonds dated February 3 and carrying interest of 5-5/8 per cent drew requests totalling KD544.7 million Sheikha Salma said.

WORLD STOCK ROUNDUP

SYDNEY, Jan 26. (Reuter): Market closed for national holiday.

HONG KONG: Share prices closed higher after sluggish seesaw trading, helped by improved sentiment in overseas markets. The Hang Seng index ended the day 18.76 points higher at 2,426.05 after a firm opening and a few points slip at midday.

SINGAPORE: Prices closed marginally lower over a broad front on lack of follow-through buying support and bouts of profit-taking in lethargic trade. The Straits Times industrial index fell 1.52 points to 907.38.

FRANKFURT: Prices ended a thin session mixed to easier, undermined by some foreign selling but supported by the steady dollar. The Commerzbank index at mid-session was up 5.1 at 1,246.9.

ZURICH: Prices were steady in very quiet trading. The higher dollar and sharp gains on Wall Street had little impact. At 1330 GMT, the All-Share Swiss index was down 2.1.

Utron Colour Picture Tubes offers shares

UPTRON Colour Picture Tubes Ltd (UCPT), the latest addition to the Utron family, was incorporated on November 8, 1985, and is currently engaged in the setting up of a plant for the manufacture of 7,50,000 colour picture tubes per year at Sahibabad, near Delhi.

In order to part finance the project cost of Rs 117.50 crores, the company is coming out with a public issue of 1,92,90,000 equity shares of Rs 10/- each, for cash at par (aggregating Rs 19.29 crores), which is scheduled to open for subscription on February 1, 1988.

Out of the public issue, an amount of Rs 4 crores (40 lac) equity shares of Rs 10/- each for cash at par is reserved for preferential allotment to Non-Resident Indians and persons of Indian origin resident abroad, on repatriation basis.

The NRI issue opened for subscription yesterday.

K. Bhushan, the vice chairman and managing director of the firm, who is currently visiting Kuwait, has said the company has been promoted by the UP Electronic Corporation Ltd (Utron) in technical and financial collaboration with Toshiba Corporation and Mitsubishi Corporation of Japan.

Utron was set up in 1974 with the objective of developing the electronics industry in UP.

It subsequently set up five other wholly owned subsidiary companies engaged in the manufacture of various components of electronics and in September

dealing in industrial electronics, components, heavy electrical apparatus, consumer products and the like. As at March 31, 1987, they had a gross turnover of Rs 23.577 billion and a net income of Rs 14.48 million.

Mitsubishi Corporation, the other co-promoter, is the biggest industrial conglomerate of Japan, with its diverse interests in steel, metal products, machinery, ships, automobiles, railway cars, processed foods, marine products, basic chemical plastics, textiles, wood products, electronics, banking, real estate, insurance etc.

For the year ended March 31, 1987, the group turnover was \$86.7 billion, with gross trade profit and net income of \$2.171 billion and \$188.178 million respectively.

Total assets amounted to \$42.365 billion and net income per share \$12.64. Both Mitsubishi and Toshiba will contribute to the equity share capital of UCPT, to the extent of Rs 2.07 and Rs 4.14 crores respectively.

Plant

UCPT is setting up the country's latest, largest and most modern plant at Sahibabad, UP, just 22 km from Connaught Place, New Delhi.

Most of the operations would be fully automated by utilising the latest equipment to obtain the best performance both in qualitative and quantitative terms.

The project is being set up in three phases and the first phase, already completed, has generated cash profits in the three

months of its operation. Phase II and III operations are expected to be completed and commissioned by June 1988 and December 1989 respectively.

Demand

With the introduction of colour transmission in India, the demand for colour televisions has shown a tremendous increase and the sales of 6 lac CTV sets in 1986 and an estimated 9 lac sets in 1987 is expected to be 20 lac sets by 1990.

The installed capacity with the 3 CPT manufacturers under construction is only 17.5 lac tubes. Thus CPT will have a ready market in India from the date production commence indigenously.

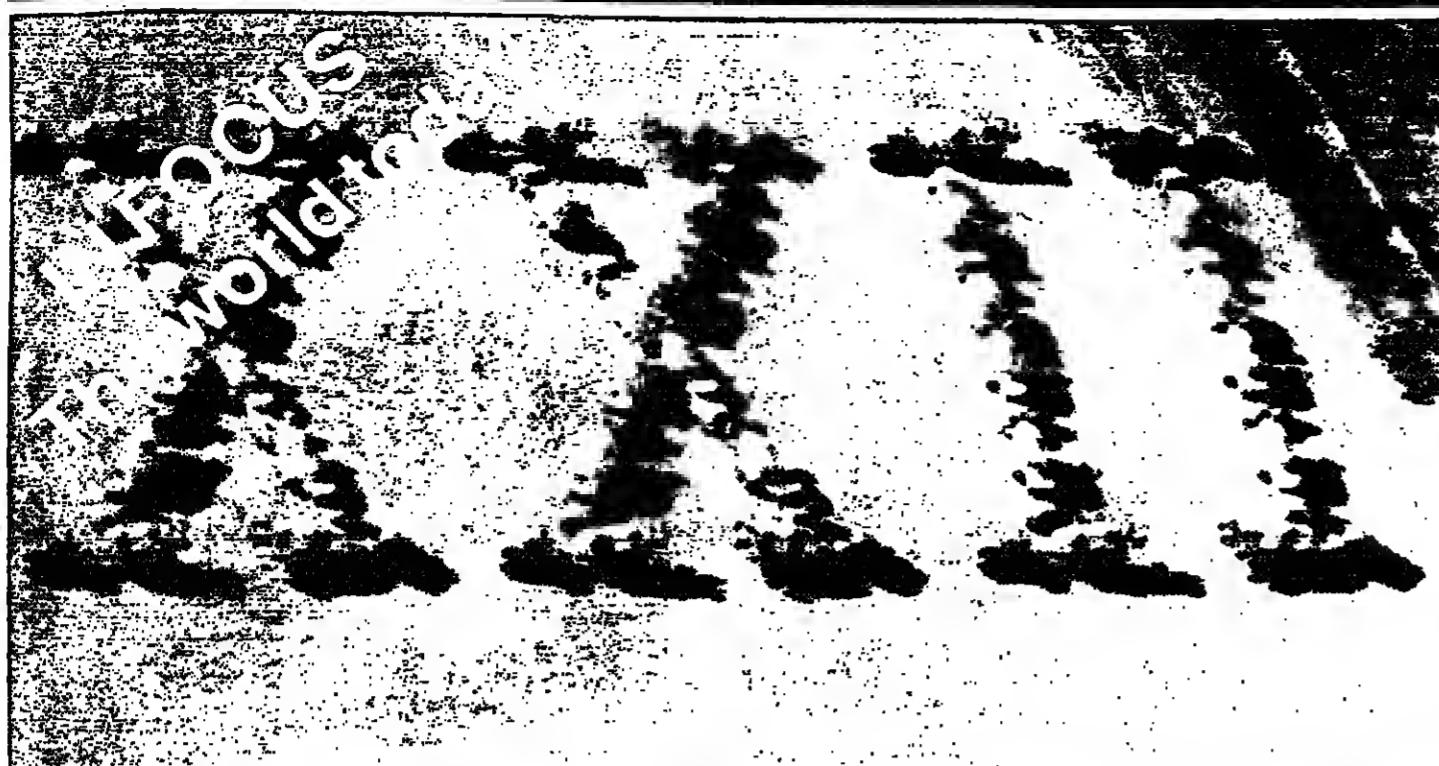
UCPT meanwhile have already sold their CPTs to a large number of TV manufacturers and this product has been readily accepted by them.

The issue is being managed by the SBI Capital Markets Ltd and the merchant banking division of the ICICI, Bank of India and Union Bank of India are the co-managers to the issue.

The chief general manager of the Commercial Bank of Kuwait, Mohammed Abdul Rahman Al Yahya, recently presented certificates to Nada Al Mansour, Khaled Al Ojaiman, Jassim Al Mousa and Salem Al Obaidi upon successful completion of a one year system engineers development programme. Picture shows the four graduates (seated) with bank officials.



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SUPER BOWL hype hits a new mark as these 34 concrete mixer trucks spell out Super Bowl XXII. Super and Bowl are spelled out with 1,500 pounds of salt and the concrete trucks may prove to be the largest and heaviest sign of Super Bowl mania in San Diego. (Reuter wirephoto)



ANDRES PASTRAN, in the lettered sweatshirt, is accompanied by soldiers in Medellin, Colombia, on Monday after he was rescued by soldiers near El Retiro, about 40 kilometres east of Medellin. Pastran, a candidate for mayor of Bogota, is one of the many Colombian officials that have been kidnapped or assassinated by Colombian drug lords who are infuriated by pressure from US and Colombian officials to extradite drug smugglers from Colombia to the United States to stand trial on drug charges. (Reuter wirephoto)



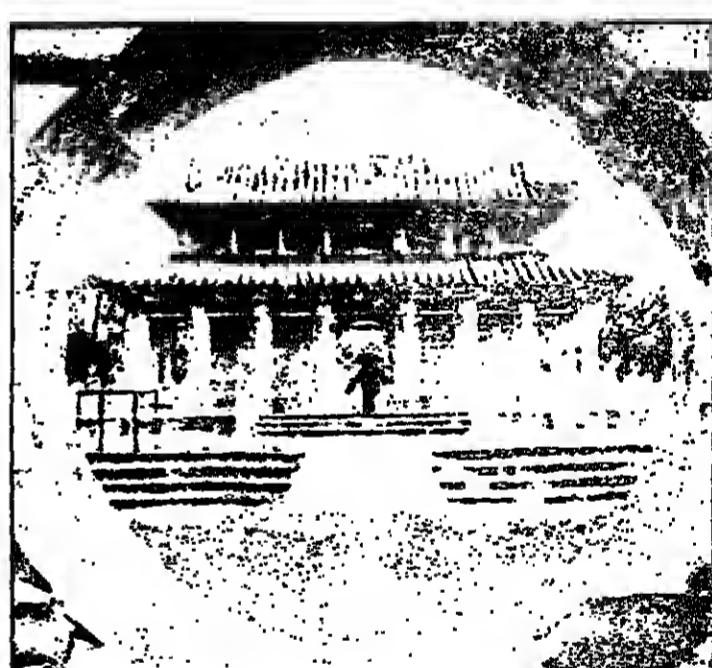
WEST GERMAN Chancellor Helmut Kohl (right) chats with Czechoslovakian President Lubomir Strougal prior to their talks in Prague yesterday. Chancellor Kohl started a two-day visit to Czechoslovakia. (Reuter wirephoto)



THE biggest crowd from islandwide Taiwan jammed in front of the Martyrs' Shrine near a Taipei suburb Monday morning to see the remains of late President Chiang Ching Kuo. It took at least four hours to finish the whole waiting trip, with over 200,000 people paying tribute to the late president. (Reuter wirephoto)



FILE photo of Ahmed Jibril, head of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine - General Command (PFLP-GC) promised more military operations against Israel in support of anti-Israeli protests in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Jibril made his call in an address to Palestinians through a new radio network clearly heard in Damascus. (Reuter wirephoto)



A CHILD explores an ice pavilion in an exhibition of ice sculptures replicating a scene from the famous Chinese novel "The Dream of the Red Mansions" on Sunday. The exhibition is part of the annual Harbin Ice Festival in northeast China. (Reuter wirephoto)



CHER poses with Jon Bon Jovi after his group won the award for Favourite Pop-Rock Group at the 15th Annual American Music Awards Show on Monday in Los Angeles. (Reuter wirephoto)



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SPANISH Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez (right) greets Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega upon his arrival at the Moncloa Palace in Madrid yesterday. Ortega is in Madrid to seek active European support to Central American peace efforts. (Reuter wirephoto)



THE US Coast Guard sail trainer Eagle passes the Sydney Opera House yesterday in a parade of tall ships celebrating Australia's Bicentenary. (Reuter wirephoto)



A COLUMN of Soviet built T-72 combat tanks file past the review stand yesterday during the 39th Republic Day parade in New Delhi. The state-of-the-art T-72 tank is now being built in India. (Reuter wirephoto)



AN Israeli soldier uses a sledge hammer Monday morning to open a shop in central Gaza City. Many shopkeepers, like the one at left, rushed to open their shops as the soldiers swept down the main street forcing businesses open. (Reuter wirephoto)



AN old woman who has brought her eggs in from the village to sell in Warsaw's a Rozycki Bazaar stoically sits out the first snowstorm of the year. (Reuter wirephoto)

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KUWAIT City, Sharq behind Firdous Cinema. One room with a kitchen and a bathroom for a small family or two working girls. Tel. 2404285, or contact the "Goraya Saloon." (AT4-40701-2)

SALWA, House 196, Block 7 behind Irani Shop. One big room with a kitchen for a family or bachelors to share with an Indian family. Bus routes 102, 34, Rent KD50. Tel. 5611243. (AT4-40643-6)

SALMIYA, behind U.T.C. Accommodation for working girl to share with a girl. Tel. 5721494 after 4 pm. (AT4-40700-3)

SALMIYA, main road, Building 85. House 3, 2 rooms for working ladies, bachelors or couples. Bus routes 19, 30, 14, 15. Contact personally. (AT4-40723-3)

SALMIYA, behind Mercedes Showroom, for Indian bachelors sharing with bachelors. Bus 15, 19, 24, 519, 30. Tel. Angelo or Dayanand, 5749750 from 10 am — 9 pm. (AT4-40703-3)

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MITSUBISHI Galant, 84 model, new engine with 13000kms, automatic, AC. Owner leaving Kuwait. KD1000, ono. Tel. M. Gharsi, 5335604. (AT4-40687-2)

SAAB 900 Turbo 1982, automatic, black, sunroof. 68000 kms in good condition KD1250, ono. Tel. 2530000, 2533000 ext. 8008 or 8035. (AT4-40684-3)

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SPORTS

Early tremor fails to halt Redskins' practice

SAN DIEGO, Jan 26. (Reuter): In their first full day in San Diego yesterday, the Super Bowl-bound Washington Redskins were initiated in typical California style — being nudged awake by a pre-dawn earthquake.

The tremor was out the Denver Broncos deploring rather it was a quake that registered 5.0 on the Richter Scale with an epicenter 45 miles east of Ensenada, Mexico. The tremor was felt in San Diego and surrounding areas with no damage or injuries reported.

The Redskins held a short practice session later in the afternoon that was closed to the more than 2,000 media in town to cover Super Bowl XXII.

Warned

Washington coach Joe Gibbs later told a news conference that he had imposed a midnight curfew on his NFC team.

"After hours, these guys can do whatever they want to do, I want them to have good time but they better be in at bedcheck," warned Gibbs, who said they would face a fine if they did not meet the deadline.

"It was a good workout everybody practiced — there were no injuries," said Gibbs who said he planned to start wide receiver Art Monk, who missed the playoffs and final two games of the regular season with a sprained knee.

Gibbs said his team has already worked on 60-70 percent of its first, second and third-down plays during practice last week at their Virginia Training Complex.

"People ask me how the game will go, but you never know," said Gibbs.

Gibbs said they may use what is called a 'spy' technique when it came to covering mobile Denver quarterback John Elway.

"I don't think you can look to shut this guy down. I've seen the best of players on him and you just can't catch him," he said.

During

The spy defence, Gibbs explained, is "one guy on defence who just watches Elway if he tries to run — in other words, his assignment is to follow Elway.

"But there is a price to pay and that leaves us one less guy rushing the quarterback," Gibbs added.

Broncos and Redskins won't be the only ones scrapping for recognition in the Super Bowl.

So will a few dozen advertisers, who network sources say paid as much as a record \$1.35 million per minute of commercial time during the television broadcast of the National Football League's championship game.

The contest usually attracts one of the year's biggest television audiences, which marketers cite as justification for spending all that money.

"It has the ambiance of a spectacular," said David Martin, a spokesman for Stroh Brewing Co. of Detroit. "It's a showcase," said John J. Fether, a marketing executive for Allstate Insurance Companies of Northbrook, Illinois.

Both companies have bought time on the ABC network broadcast of this year's game.

The high price of commercial time often drives companies to press their admakers to come up with something memorable to make the spending worthwhile.

Apple Computer Inc., Burger King and the Budweiser Beer Brewery are among this year's main advertisers.

So are Coca-Cola and Pepsi-Cola from the soft-drink industry.

Coca-Cola has an elaborate new Diet Coke commercial.

Pepsi said it hasn't decided yet which of its new celebrity-filled commercials it plans to air in the 90 seconds of commercial time it purchased. Pepsi plans to have its name on a blimp over the playing field in San Diego.

Deccan Green and Unity score wins

DECCAN GREEN beat Falcon by 28 runs while Unity defeated Starlite on a better run-rate in the Air Lanka Cricket League matches in Ahmadi on Thursday.

In the first match, Deccan Green won the toss and elected to bat. They opened their innings through Salm and Zulqarnain, who put on 25 runs in the first four overs.

Task

Munir of Falcon then accounted for Salm and Aslam was run out for 10 to reduce Deccan Green to 38 for two in six overs. Arun then joined Zulqarnain, who was in an attacking mood, and both of them took the Falcon bowlers to task. Zulqarnain, in particular, was more severe on all the bowlers on his way to 102. He hit five sixes and six fours.

JAZZ BRUSH ASIDE CAVALIERS

Malone takes Bullets over 76ers



Bucks' John Lucas (centre) goes for a shot as Warriors' Winston Garland reaches for the ball. (Reuter wirephoto)

LANDOVER, Maryland, Jan 26. (AP): Moses Malone scored 26 points and Bernard King added 22 last night as Washington defeated the Philadelphia 76ers 118-117 in overtime. The victory was the seventh straight at home for the Bullets since Wes Unseld took over as coach and their third in a week over Philadelphia.

After Gerald Henderson's 3-pointer gave Philadelphia a 114-113 lead, Malone then grabbed a rebound and dunked the ball with 23 seconds to play in the extra period. Mike Grimski missed two short jumpers, and the second was rebounded by Bernard King, who was fouled. King made two free throws.

Malone added another free throw with 10 seconds left to give Washington a 118-114 lead before Henderson hit his second 3-pointer of the overtime period for the final margin.

Jazz 119, Cavaliers 96 Utah reserve Rickey Green scored the NBA's 5-millionth point at the end of the third period and the Jazz went on to defeat the Cleveland Cavaliers 119-96. Green's milestone came on a 3-point shot, giving the Jazz an 92-67 lead. His basket was the 5,000,001th point since the NBA began play in the 1946.

Before the fourth period began, there was a ceremony and Green autographed the ball, which will go to the basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, Massachusetts.

Karl Malone paced the winners with 36 points, while John Stockton had 20 points and 13 assists.

Leading 52-51 at halftime, Malone and Stockton scored 10 points apiece as Utah outscored the Cavaliers 90-7 in the opening 9:36 of the third quarter.

Brad Daugherty, Mark Price

and Mark West scored 14 points each for Cleveland.

Bucks 108, Warriors 105 Paul Pressey game Milwaukee will both play in the bicentennial cricket Test against Australia at the Sydney Cricket Ground starting on Friday, England captain Mike Gatting said today.

Gatting told reporters after his side arrived from New Zealand that England would play both off-spinners at a ground which has favoured spin bowlers in recent years.

Thrashed

The England skipper said he respected the Australians, who beat New Zealand 1-0 in their recent three-match Test series and thrashed the same opponents in the World Series Cup one-day finals.

"They've been improving all the time since we were here last summer and when you're winning that obviously gives you a great boost," Gatting said.

Meanwhile, England cricket official today rejected an offer by ace all-rounder Ian Botham to make himself available for the bicentenary Test.

Botham, who declared himself unavailable for the England tour of Australia and New Zealand and is playing for the Queensland state side in the Australian Domestic Sheffield Shield competition, made his offer after England pace bowler Phillip de



Botham: turned down

Freitas suffered an Achilles tendon strain.

"All they have to do is pick up the phone," Botham told reporters.

England manager Peter Lush said in Auckland there was no intention of approaching Botham.

"We have our touring party here. They are doing their job," Lush said. "It's from these people we will pick the team for the Test."

The England team was to leave New Zealand later today en route to Sydney for the one-off Test.

England will play both off-spinners, says Gatting

SYDNEY, Jan 26. (Reuter): England off-spinners John Emburey and Eddie Hemmings will both play in the bicentennial cricket Test against Australia at the Sydney Cricket Ground starting on Friday, England captain Mike Gatting said today.

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Everton hold Wednesday

LONDON, Jan 26. (AP): The English FA Cup third round tie between Everton and Sheffield Wednesday failed to produce a winner at the third attempt yesterday when the sides again drew 1-1.

Everton

with home advantage in the second replay, at last looked to have booked a fourth round home match against Second Division Middlesbrough on Saturday.

After a goalless first half, City stepped up the pressure and scored three times to secure a visit to Blackpool of Division Three on Saturday.

Andy Hinchliffe broke the deadlock with a perfectly struck angled shot from 20 yards.

City made virtually sure of victory in the 76th minute when Paul Simpson crossed to the far post for David White to tap the ball home from close range for the 13th goal of the season.

Striker Imre Striker Varadi netted in the final minute.

Hodge made two superb saves

Munoz keeps faith with old guard for friendly

VALENCIA, Spain, Jan 26. (Reuter): Spanish coach Miguel Munoz has kept faith with his old hands for a friendly against East Germany tomorrow which kicks off his team's last phase of preparation for the European Championship finals.

England manager Geoff Cooke said: "We took our time during the selection meeting reflecting on the fact that we did lose (to France) despite a very good performance. We considered that we have made substantial progress and that this side is capable of further improvement."

Injuries have forced Munoz to leave out Real Madrid stars Paul Simpson and Rafael Gordillo but he has included only one uncapped player — Real Sociedad defender Luis Lopez Rekarte — in the squad for the first friendly against East Germany in eight years.

East German coach Bernd

Stang, his eyes already on the 1990 World Cup, has brought over a team with an average age of 24 from an international tournament in the Canary Islands where they lost to both Spain and Czechoslovakia.

Stang may have to do without promising forward Andreas Thom who injured his leg in the tournament and has been unable to train for several days.

Munoz has dropped midfielder Ramon Caldes but kept goalkeeper Andoni Zubizarreta, who despite having a bad season with Barcelona, has always produced good form in internationals.

Starlite sail into Kifco Trophy final

STARLITE reached the final of the Kifco Trophy cricket tournament with a seven-wicket victory over Bright Star at the Sahab Al Salem Area (KCL) ground on Friday.

Bright Star, after winning the toss, batted first and opened their innings through Aslam and Mohammed Ali. Both of them played cautiously and both of them took the score to 57 in 11 overs before Mohammed Ali was caught by Sohail off Zia for 23.

Arun joined Aslam and both of them put on 40 runs for the second wicket before the latter was bowled by Ifthikar for 71. Soon afterwards, Arun was stumped by Mansoor Zahir off Sohail. After Salim was run out for 20, Bright Star managed to reach 173 for the loss of five wickets in 27 overs.

Starlite, chasing a modest total, opened their innings through Iqbal Rizvi and Mansoor Zahir. Both the openers showed tremendous form and put on 88 runs for the first wicket in 11 overs before Iqbal Rizvi was adjudged leg before wicket for 56. Iqbal hit four sixes and five fours.

Mansoor was out at 104 after scoring 28. Zia and Qayum guided their team to victory. Qayum was out for 24 while Zia remained unbeaten on 43 as Starlite got the required runs with 2-3 overs and seven wickets to spare.

Starlite will meet Evergreen in the final which will be played in March.

QMCC cruise past Brothers



Raza: scored 55

QUAD-E-MILLAT Cricket Club (QMCC) kept their hopes for the Brad Trophy alive with a nine-wicket win over Brothers Eleven at the EPI ground on Friday morning.

Batting first, Brothers were restricted to only 96 runs in 27 overs and they lost nine wickets. Ansar and Jamil took three wickets each. Qamar supported them well with two. Mansoor was the top scorer with 34.

In reply, QMCC got the required runs for the loss of only one wicket. Raza, who is in good form this season, hammered 55 runs. Ishfaq was the only QMCC casualty with 10. Dilawer remained unbeaten on 26.

ACC defeat Meridien

ACC beat Meridien by 60 runs in a friendly match at the Hilton grounds on Friday.

ACC, batting first, scored 164 in 30 overs. Skipper Gulab was the highest scorer for his team with 77 and was ably supported by wicket-keeper Ram who scored 20.

Meridien, in reply, ran into some hostile bowling from Lucas and were all out for 104. Lucas took seven wickets for 20 runs, including a hat-trick.

Required

Unity achieved a morale boosting victory and got the required runs through Ejaz (38) and Shabbir (51).

Useful contributions from the other batsmen saw Unity reach 143 for 6 in 22 overs compared to Starlite's 139 for 5 when time was called by the two umpires.

Swedish rally

LONDON, Jan 26. (Reuter): Vauxhall cars will return to the World Rally Championship after a break of seven years when Britain Malcolm Wilson leads a team in the Swedish Motor Rally starting on February 4.

Wilson told reporters he would contest several European-based rounds of this year's championship in an Astra 2.0 GTE.

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SPORTS

Budd determined to compete in Auckland race

LONDON, Jan 26. (Reuters): Britain's South African-born runner Zola Budd said today she was determined to try for her third World Cross Country title in Auckland, New Zealand, in March despite the threat of anti-apartheid demonstrators.

Budd, 21, told the news conference she was not worried about demonstrators.

"I'll face that when I come to it," she said. "But I'm used to demonstrators by now and it is a problem for the organisers, not for me."

Budd said she would decide after Auckland whether to run the 3,000 or 10,000 metres at the Seoul Olympics and said she did not know if she would compete in the Auckland Games in 1990.

Budd was banned from the 1986 Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh because she had not spent enough time in Britain.

"My family live in South Africa and I will continue to visit them," Budd said. "I also have to see the doctor who has been treating me for my injury problems in South Africa."

Lendl triumphs

HONG KONG, Jan 26. (Reuters): World number one Ivan Lendl, beaten in the Australian Open semifinals last week, bounced back with a 6-4 6-1 win over American Tim Mayotte in an exhibition tennis match here today.

MALAYSIANS SUBDUE DETERMINED KUWAITIS

Four squash teams qualify for final round

PAKISTAN, Singapore, Jordan and Malaysia reached the final round of the team event yesterday at the 4th Asian Squash Championship being held in Kuwait.

Kuwait, Bahrain, Hong Kong and India, who finished second in their groups, were playing against each other late last night to decide the final qualifier for the final round.

In the final round, the five teams will be playing each other on a League basis to decide the champion.

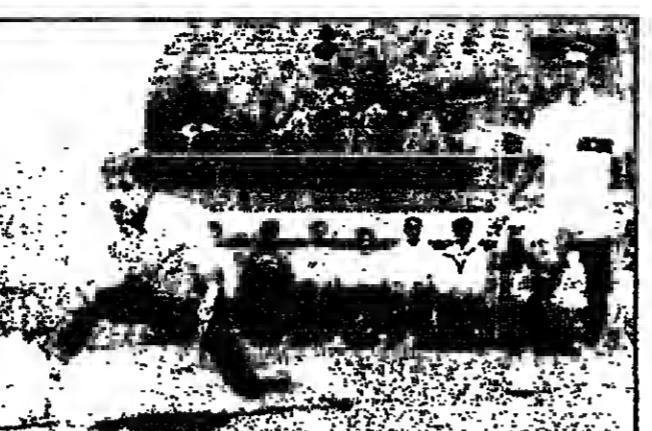
Indication

Kuwait lost 3-0 to Malaysia yesterday but the score is no indication of the fight put up by the Kuwaiti players in an effort to take their team into the next round.

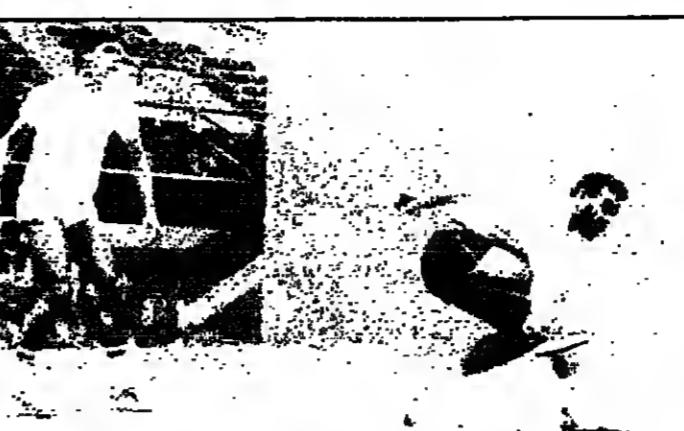
In the first match, Kuwait's Adel Al Gharib stretched Chris Chan to five sets. Adel lost the first set 9-2 but came back strongly in the second to surprise his opponent with a 9-7 victory.

Adel carried on with the same game in the third set which he won 9-6.

Chan, realising that the game was getting out of hand, fought back to take the next two sets 9-7 9-7. Both the players had the spectators on the edge of their seats as they fought for every point.



Tareq (left) stretches forward to retrieve a shot.



Fakher (right) hits a backhand shot.

In the second game, Tareq Al Uwais lost by three straight sets to Patrick. But the 9-7 10-8 10-8 victory achieved by the Malaysian did not come easily as Tareq stayed with him throughout the match. The match saw some brilliant play by both the players.

Expected

The last Kuwaiti to lose was Fakher Al Sayed, who took Patrick to four sets. Patrick won the game 9-6 10-8 8-10 9-2. The first three sets were evenly fought and was only in the fourth set that Patrick found things relatively easy.

Jordan qualified for the final

round with a 2-1 victory over India. In the first match Eyad Kamal beat Indian Azora 9-7 9-1 9-3. Jordanian Hamed Al Said took the second game 9-7 9-7 9-7 from Darwala while the only Indian victor was Nargit Singh, who beat Nedal 8-10 9-2 9-4 9-0.

Pakistan did not play yesterday as they had already qualified for the next round with two victories on Monday.

Singapore, as expected, took its place among the finalists with a 3-0 victory over Hong Kong. Zainul Abedin beat Tony 9-3 9-0 3-9 9-5. Antony crushed Victor 9-2 9-3 9-3 and Heng defeated Chua 9-6 9-4 9-4.

The former secretary of the Kuwait Tennis Federation, Yacoub Al Hussaini, yesterday held a luncheon for the Pakistani delegation at his home. Al Hussaini is an old friend of most of the Pakistani players.

The Pakistani coach of the Kuwait team, Fahim Gul, also held a dinner for the Pakistani team at his house.

It was revealed yesterday that the Pakistani squad, based on Jahangir Khan, Qamar Zaman, Umer Hayat and Maqsood Ahmed, are keeping fit by running at least seven kilometres everyday. They run from the Regency Palace Hotel to the Hawalli governorate and back every morning to keep their bodies in shape for this championship.

The coach of the Pakistani team, Umer Zadah, yesterday predicted that Jahangir would beat the world champion, Jan-Prakash. The president of the International Squash Federation, Ronnie Sinclair, is due to leave Kuwait today for London after witnessing some of the matches of the championship. Sinclair praised the organisation of the present championship by the Kuwaiti officials.

The president of the Asian Squash Federation, Dr Edward Jacob, left Kuwait for Singapore yesterday. He witnessed the opening of the championship and most of the matches of the singles event.

Umer was of the opinion that Jahangir had lost his earlier matches to Jan-Prakash because he had not been physically fit. Umer believes that Jahangir has once again regained the form which kept him in a class of his own and would be able to defeat Jan-Prakash.

Praised

Meanwhile, 20 certificates were given by the Asian Squash Federation to the Referees Committee. The committee will name the officials to whom these certificates will be given for the performance at the championship.

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Yacht race

BUENOS AIRES, Jan 26. (Reuters): Pal Cayard of the United States won his second consecutive race yesterday at the star class World Yachting Championship. Cayard, with crewman Steve Erickson, edged past Roberto Ferraresi of Italy in the final minutes of the race amid stiff winds and choppy waters on the River Plate off the shores of the Argentine capital.

Tim Witherspoon

LONDON, Jan 26. (AP): American Tim Witherspoon, the former world heavyweight boxing champion who successfully defended his title against Britain's Frank Bruno 18 months ago, returns to this country for a non-title fight on Feb 17, it was announced yesterday. Witherspoon, ranked No. 8 by the World Boxing Association and No. 9 by the World Boxing Council, will top the bill at London's York Hall against Mexican national champion Maricito Villegas.

Steroid smuggling

OSLO, Jan 26. (Reuters): Norway's Olympic Committee put new pressure on the International Olympic Committee (IOC) today to rule on whether Soviet speed skater Nikolai Gulyayev should be banned from the Winter Games for alleged steroid smuggling.

Irish team

AUCKLAND, New Zealand, Jan 26. (AP): Third-seeded American Terry Phelps rallied today to score a 3-6, 6-2, 6-0 second-round victory over compatriot Lea Antonoplis in the \$50,000 International Tennis Tournament.

Phelps, 24, was one of six seeds to advance in the 56-draw outdoor hardcourt event, which comprises part of the Virginia Slims series.

She was beaten by compatriot Gretchen Magers last year in the final.

Defending champion Magers advanced to the third round with a 6-2, 6-3 triumph over Sybille Noix-Chateau of France.

Another French player, Marie-Christine Calleja, caused the only upset of the second-day of the tournament, downing 14th-seeded Australian Louise Field 6-3, 7-6 (7-0) in a first-round match.

In other first-round action, Susan Mascal of the United States, the 11th seed, defeated fellow American Vicki Nelson-Dunbar 6-2, 6-2.

The top eight seeds received first-round byes.

Second-round winners included eighth-seeded Belgian teenager Anne Devries and her 12th-seeded compatriot Sandra Wasserman.

Devries, 17, downed Annabel Croft of Britain 6-4, 6-1, while Wasserman, also 17, beat American Kim Steinmetz 7-6 (7-6), 6-3.

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Phelps rallies to defeat Antonoplis

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Nystrom injury worries Swedish team

STOCKHOLM, Jan 26. (Reuters): Davis Cup champions Sweden will be forced to field a weakened squad when they begin their title defence next Friday in a first-round tennis tie against New Zealand.

Team captain Hasse Olsson, set to announce a team on Thursday, has already received apologies from Mats Wilander, taking a six-week break after his Australian Open victory against Pat Cash in Melbourne on Sunday.

Wilander's doubles partner Joakim Nystrom, recovering from a bout of flu which kept him from Melbourne, is now on the doubtful list because of a chest injury. Olsson said.

Despite the selection headache, Sweden is still hot favourite to take the Davis Cup fixture against New Zealand at Gävle, eastern Sweden.

Even without Wilander and Nystrom, Olsson has the talents of world number two Stefan Edberg and Anders Jarryd to call upon, Jonas Svensson and Peter Lundgren are likely to take the other two berths.

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SPORTS BRIEFS

Kuwaiti fencer

LONDON, Jan 26. (Kunza): Kuwaiti student, Mohammad Ali Al Moe'men, has won the fencing individual event at the England Universities Championships. Al Moe'men studies electronic engineering at a London college. The fencing championships were held in Bath City of West England, within the framework of athletic games of English universities.

Mark Dennis

LONDON, Jan 26. (Reuters): Mark Dennis, who has the worst disciplinary record in the English League, failed in his appeal against a 53-day ban when he appeared before a Football Association appeal committee yesterday.

Black golfers

JOHANNESBURG, Jan 26. (Reuters): Black golfers, protesting over poor facilities for non-white players, are boycotting the five remaining tournaments on South Africa's Sunshine circuit. "We need immediate changes before we can consider playing," a spokesman for the players said yesterday.

Yacht race

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Irish team

AUCKLAND, New Zealand, Jan 26. (AP): The Irish team, including its world champion triple of Stan Espie, Sammy Allen and Jim Baker, arrived today for World Bowls 1988 and were seen at practice. Baker and Espie played in New Zealand in the Test series in 1985.

Virginia Slims

MAINZ, West Germany, Jan 26. (AP): Organisers cancelled a Virginia Slims women's tournament today after its main attraction, Steffi Graf of West Germany, pulled out. The Mainz tournament was scheduled Feb 1-7.

Cup star

RIO DE JANEIRO, Jan 26. (UPI): Brazilian World Cup star Josimar, 25, might be on his way to Britain to play for Scottish Premier Division Dundee United. Botafogo vice-president Edimilson Pinheiro said.

NHL games

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Sheraton

Spotlights

AL-HAMBRA

Shellfish Buffet
every Wednesday Evening

Kuwait Sheraton Hotel
The hospitality people of ITT

Short wins again to seize 2-0 lead

The victors in the seven matches played here will compete in a final knockout series of contests at a later date to decide the challenger.

Playing with the disadvantage of the black pieces, Short, 22, sacrificed a pawn in the opening, but played too aggressively in a complicated middle-game position.

Seirwan, 27, from Seattle, sacrificed a rook for a bishop to gain a dangerous attack against Speelman's king, but the 31-year-old Londoner beat back the assault to reach a winning end-game position.

After falling dramatically short of time, Sax blundered and allowed his king to be surrounded.

"The position was about equal, but impatience finally got

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